



# THE WALKING DEAD

38

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Cliff 106

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN



IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING

# DEAD™

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Creator, Writer

**CHARLIE ADLARD**

Penciler, Inker, Cover

**CLIFF RATHBURN**

Gray Tones, Cover Colors, Back Cover

**RUS WOOTON**

Letterer

## Previously:

After Rick's encounter with Martinez and the realization of the threat Woodbury now faces, Tyreese formed a group to go out in search of a National Guard Station, rumored to have a stockpile of weapons. Tyreese took Andrea, Axel, Michonne and newlyweds Glenn and Maggie with him. Meanwhile, back at the prison, Lori told Rick she needed to talk to him about Shane.

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SHANE? YOU  
NEED TO TALK  
TO ME ABOUT  
SHANE?

WHY?



THERE'S REALLY  
NO EASY WAY TO  
TELL YOU THIS.  
I--



LORI.

JUST  
STOP.



I KNOW YOU DON'T  
WANT TO HEAR THIS.  
I KNOW IT'S NOT  
GOING TO BE EASY  
TO HEAR.

YOU  
THINK THIS  
IS EASY TO  
SAY?

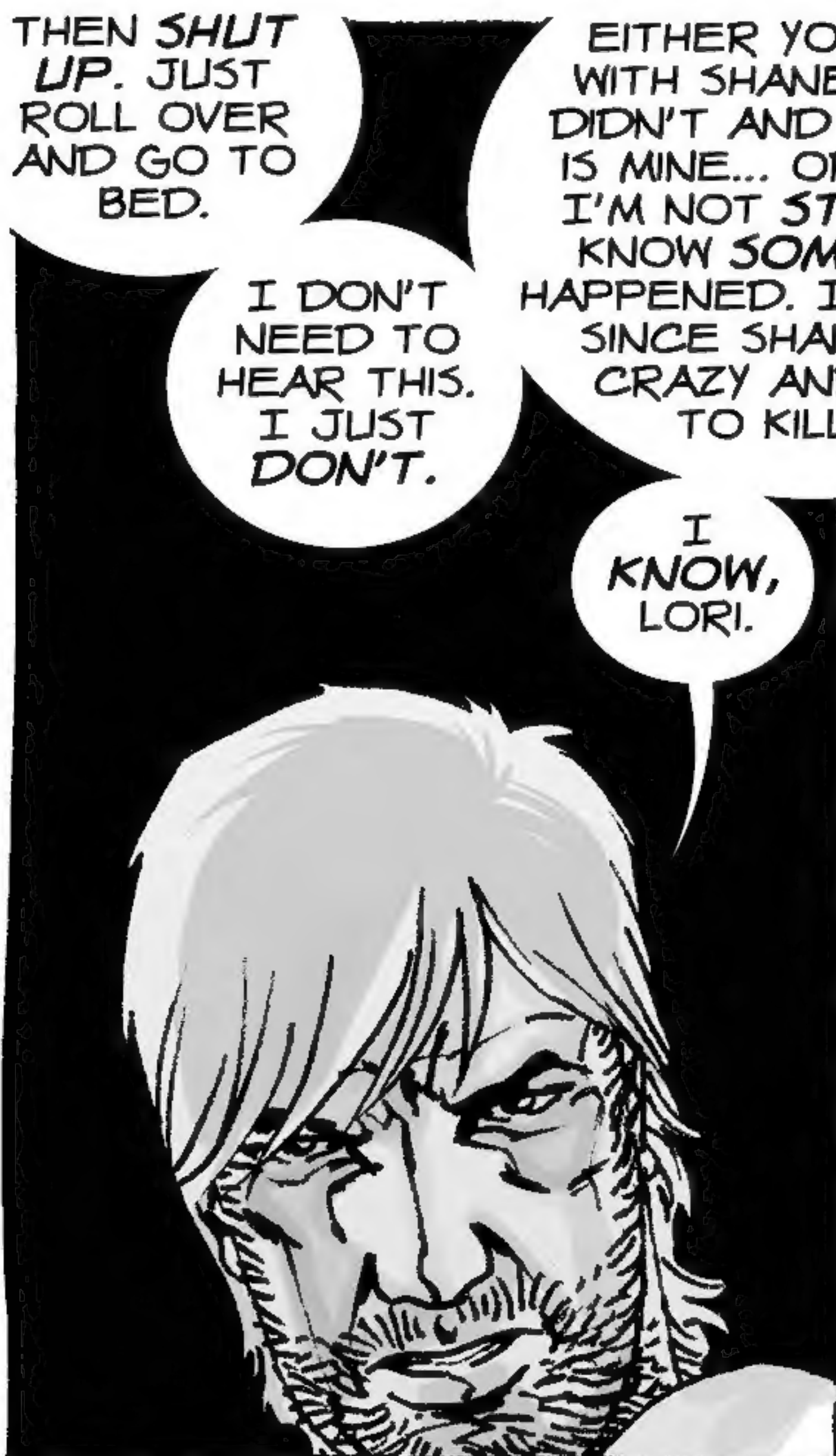
I LOVE  
YOU, RICK. I  
LOVE YOU NOW  
MORE THAN  
I EVER HAVE  
AND I DON'T  
WANT TO LOSE  
YOU.

THEN SHUT  
UP. JUST  
ROLL OVER  
AND GO TO  
BED.

I DON'T  
NEED TO  
HEAR THIS.  
I JUST  
DON'T.

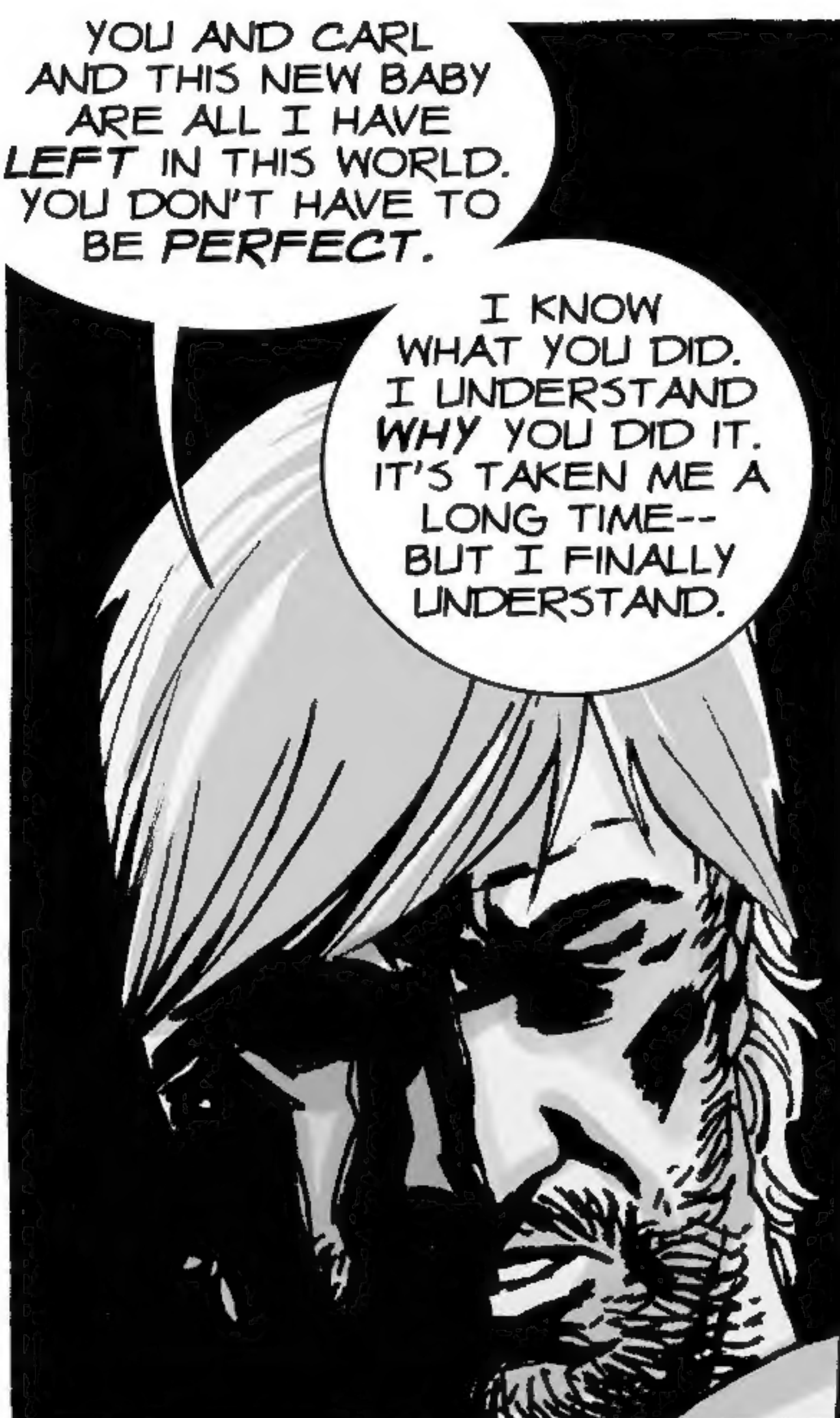
EITHER YOU SLEPT  
WITH SHANE OR YOU  
DIDN'T AND THE BABY  
IS MINE... OR IT ISN'T.  
I'M NOT STUPID. I  
KNOW SOMETHING  
HAPPENED. I'VE KNOWN  
SINCE SHANE WENT  
CRAZY AND TRIED  
TO KILL ME.

I  
KNOW,  
LORI.



YOU AND CARL  
AND THIS NEW BABY  
ARE ALL I HAVE  
LEFT IN THIS WORLD.  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
BE PERFECT.

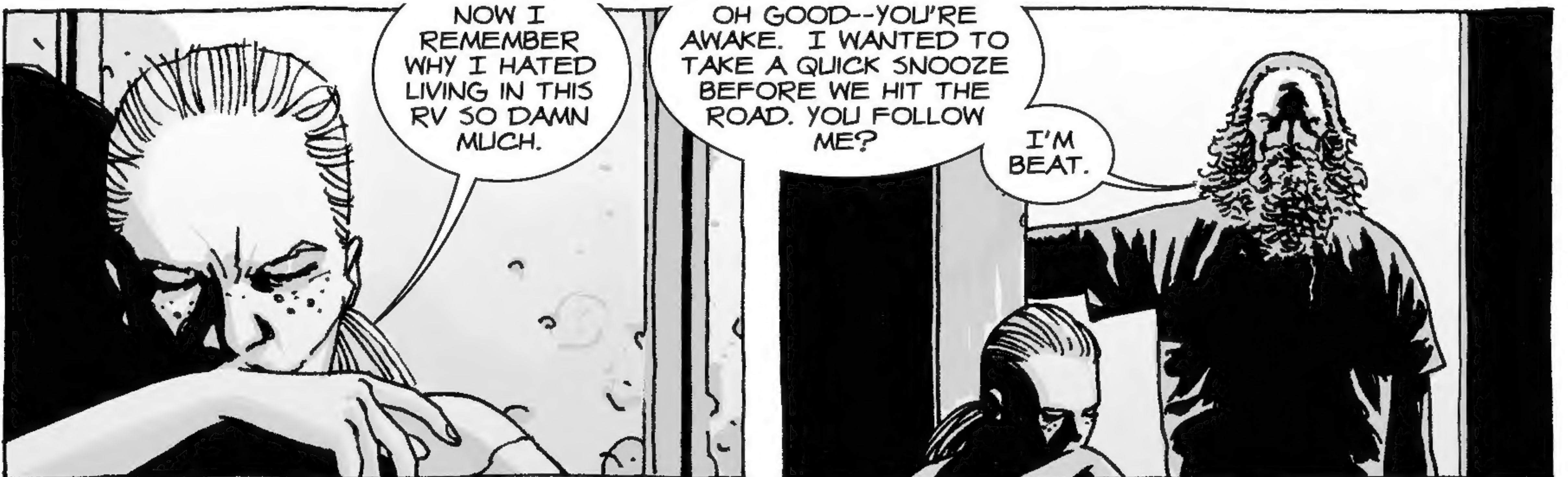
I KNOW  
WHAT YOU DID.  
I UNDERSTAND  
WHY YOU DID IT.  
IT'S TAKEN ME A  
LONG TIME--  
BUT I FINALLY  
UNDERSTAND.















ALREADY  
AWAKE,  
TYREESE?

YEAH--  
AXEL WOKE ME  
UP. NO BIG DEAL.  
DIDN'T SLEEP TOO  
WELL LAST NHT.  
NOT THAT I  
EXPECTED TO  
IN THIS TIN  
CAN.

OH, DID  
YOU HAVE  
SOMEONE'S  
FEET SHOVED  
IN YOUR FACE  
TOO?



OH,  
DID I?  
SHIT.

SORRY  
ABOUT THAT.  
I GUESS I  
COULD LEAVE MY  
SHOES ON IF  
WE'RE OUT HERE  
FOR ANOTHER  
NIGHT.



AFTER  
WHAT YOU'VE NO  
DOUBT STEPPED IN?  
THAT'D PROBABLY BE  
WORSE. I'D RATHER  
YOU PUT A TOE  
RIGHT UP MY  
NOSE.

AND  
BITE YOUR  
TONGUE. WE'RE  
FINDING THIS PLACE  
TODAY. I CAN'T  
BELIEVE WE DIDN'T  
YESTERDAY.



YEAH, WE SPENT  
TOO MUCH TIME  
DRIVING DOWN ROADS  
NEAR THE PRISON. WE  
NEED TO GET CLOSER  
TO WOODBURY AND  
WORK OUR WAY  
BACK.

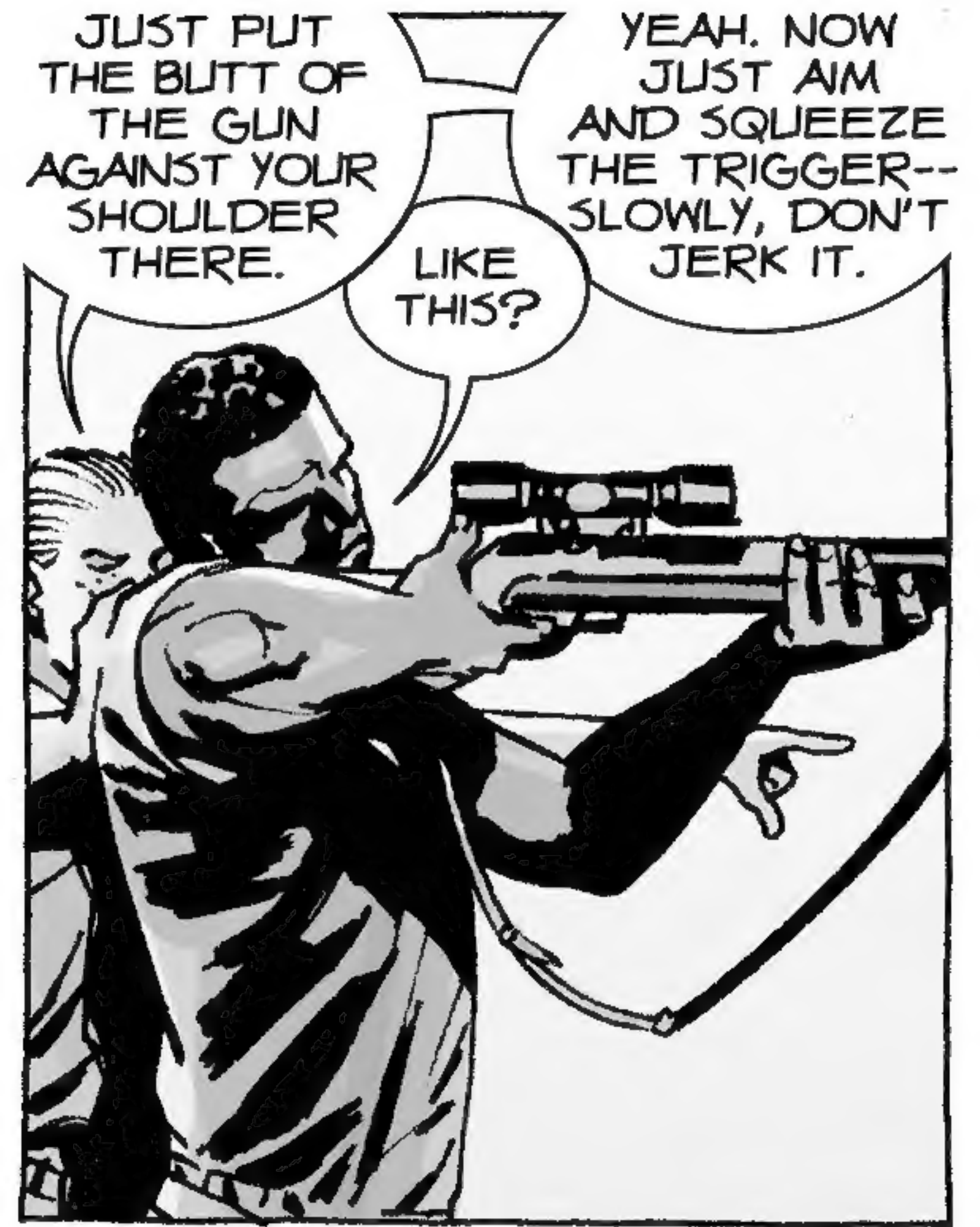
UH... DO  
YOU--?



I SEE IT. I'M JUST  
WAITING UNTIL IT GETS  
CLOSER. IT WAS WALKING  
REALLY FUNNY--LOOKED  
LIKE IT WAS WALKING AWAY  
FROM US FOR A MINUTE  
THERE EARLIER.

I FIGURED  
I'D WAIT TO MAKE  
SURE IT WAS GONNA  
REACH US BEFORE  
I WASTED A  
BULLET.









I SUCK AT THAT. I'M JUST **TERRIBLE** WITH A GUN. I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET A HANDLE ON IT FOR WHATEVER REASON.

✓ WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE PRISON--LATER **TODAY**--DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GIVE ME SOME POINTERS--HELP ME OUT?

SURE, NO PROBLEM. IF WHAT RICK AND EVERYONE IS EXPECTING ACTUALLY HAPPENS, IF THESE CRAZY PEOPLE **DO** TRY TO ATTACK US... WE'LL NEED AS MANY SHOOTERS AS WE CAN GET.



THANKS FOR THE WAKE-UP CALL. REALLY.

TWENTY MINUTES WAS **MORE** THAN ENOUGH SLEEP. NO, REALLY. I'LL BE **FINE**.



OH, THE GUN SHOT--SORRY. DID I WAKE EVERYONE ELSE UP, TOO?



≡YAWN!≡

PRETTY MUCH. WELL, MICHONNE IS UP. I THINK GLENN AND MAGGIE ARE STILL OUT. MAYBE THEY WERE UP LATER THAN THE REST OF US. YOU FOLLOW ME?



THINK I WOULD HAVE HEARD **THAT**. WELL, WAKE THEM UP. WE NEED TO GET A MOVE ON.

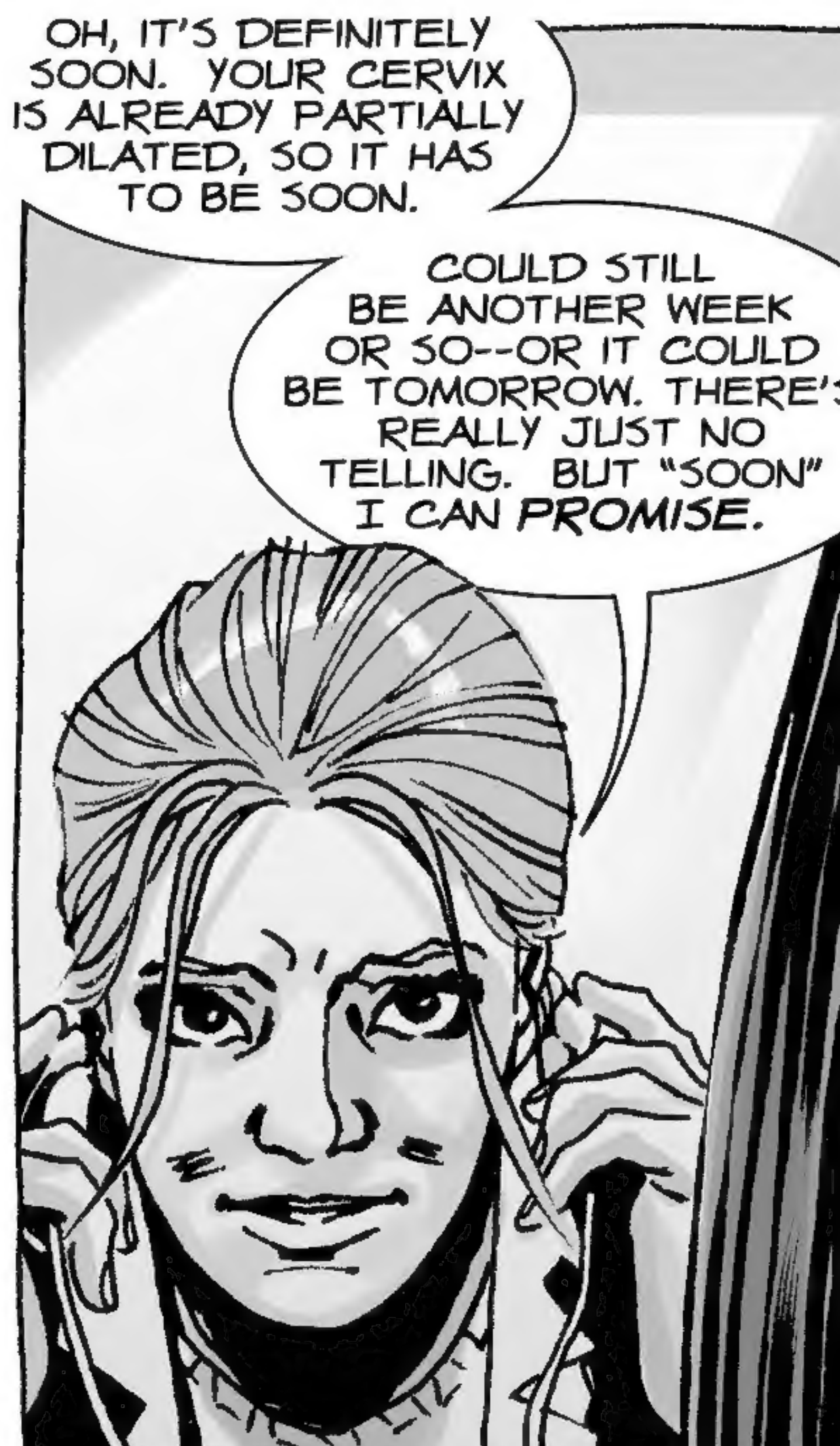
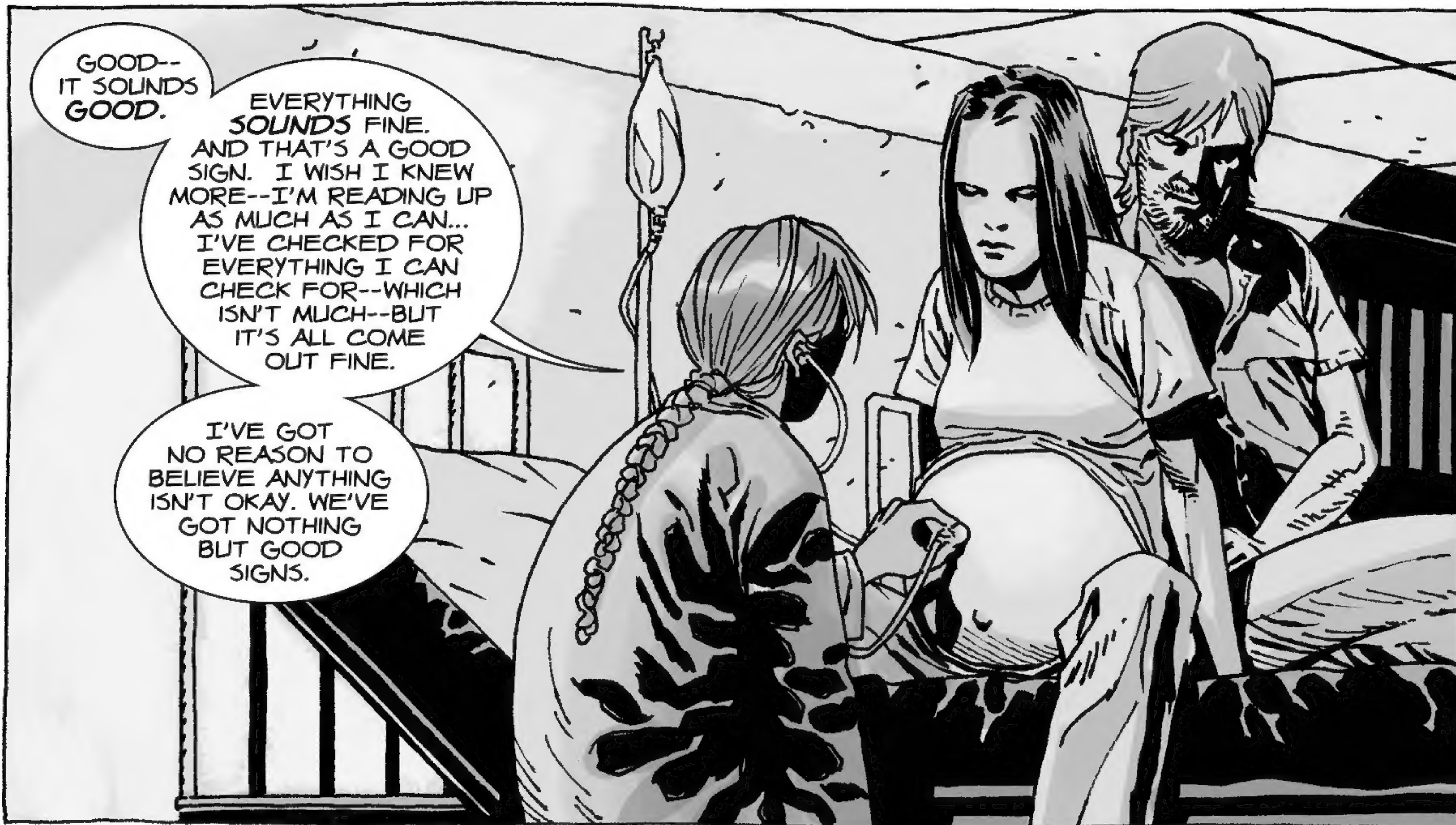
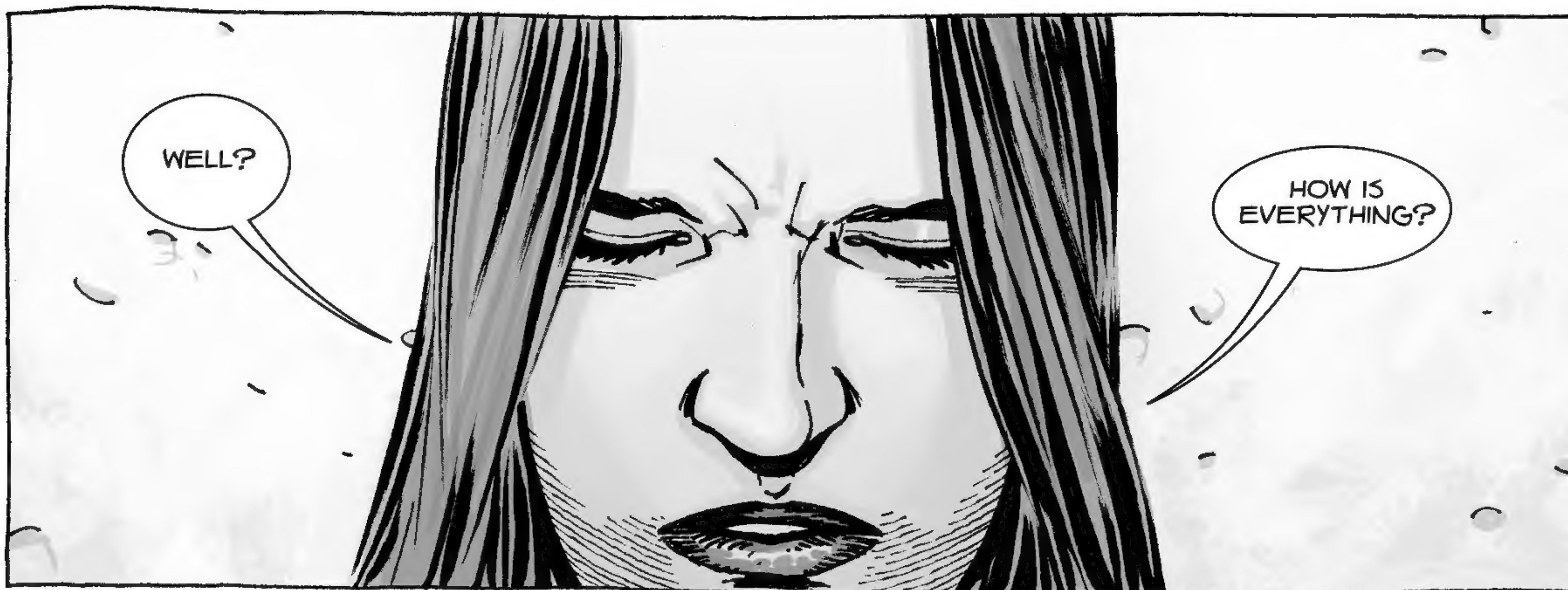
I NEED TO SEE IF GLENN OR MICHONNE CAN GET US TO THAT ROAD THEY GOT TO BY GOING THROUGH THE WOODS--WE NEED TO JUST GET CLOSER TO WOODBURY AND DRIVE AROUND THERE.

WITHOUT GETTING TOO CLOSE, OF COURSE.

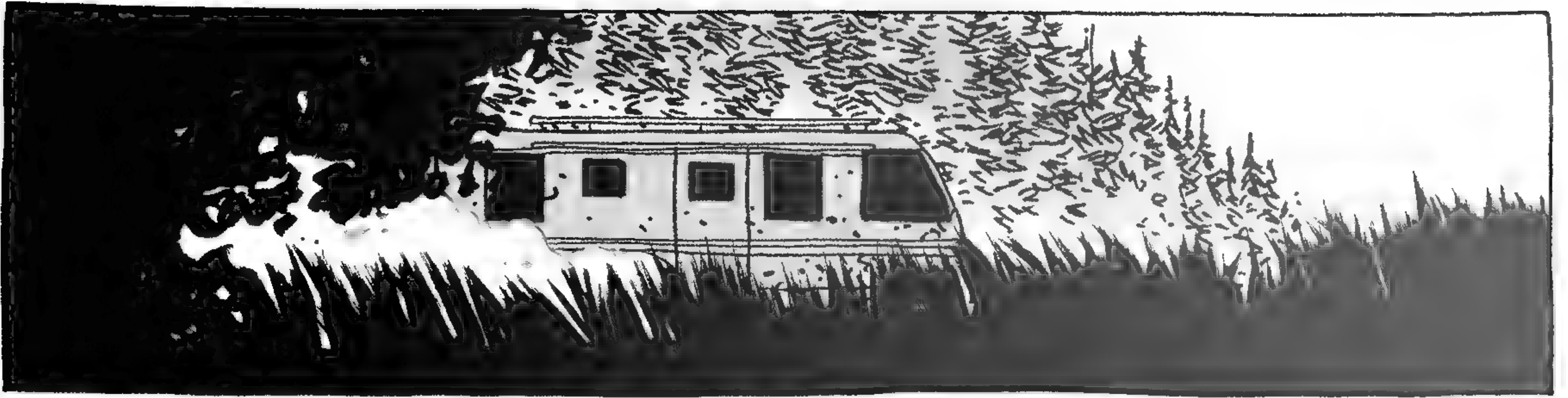
I REALLY DO JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE FIND THIS PLACE **TODAY**. I'M ALREADY SICK OF THIS RV.

I HEAR YOU.









WELL, HERE WE ARE.  
WE GET MUCH CLOSER  
THAN THIS AND THEY'LL  
PROBABLY SEE US, BUT  
THEY'LL DEFINITELY  
HEAR US.

SO?

I DON'T  
KNOW. WE  
DIDN'T SEE  
ANY SIGNS  
ON THE WAY  
HERE.

GOTTA  
TAKE A  
LEAK.

WE COULD GO BACK AND  
TAKE THAT RIGHT WE PASSED  
A COUPLE MINUTES AGO. WHAT  
WAS THAT--BARNES MILL ROAD?  
BUT I'D LIKE TO GET A LITTLE  
CLOSER BEFORE WE WORK OUR  
WAY BACK--MAYBE EVEN TRAVEL  
AROUND WOODBURY AND  
CHECK BEHIND IT.

I'M NOT  
BANKING ON  
THE NATIONAL  
GUARD STATION  
BEING BETWEEN  
THIS PLACE AND  
THE PRISON. WE  
SHOULD CIRCLE  
THE TOWN  
FIRST.

YEAH--THAT'S  
SMART. WE CAN  
TAKE THIS ROAD  
UP ON THE RIGHT  
WITHOUT GETTING  
WITHIN SIGHT  
OF THEIR  
FENCES.

I DON'T  
WANT THEM  
TO SPOT  
US.

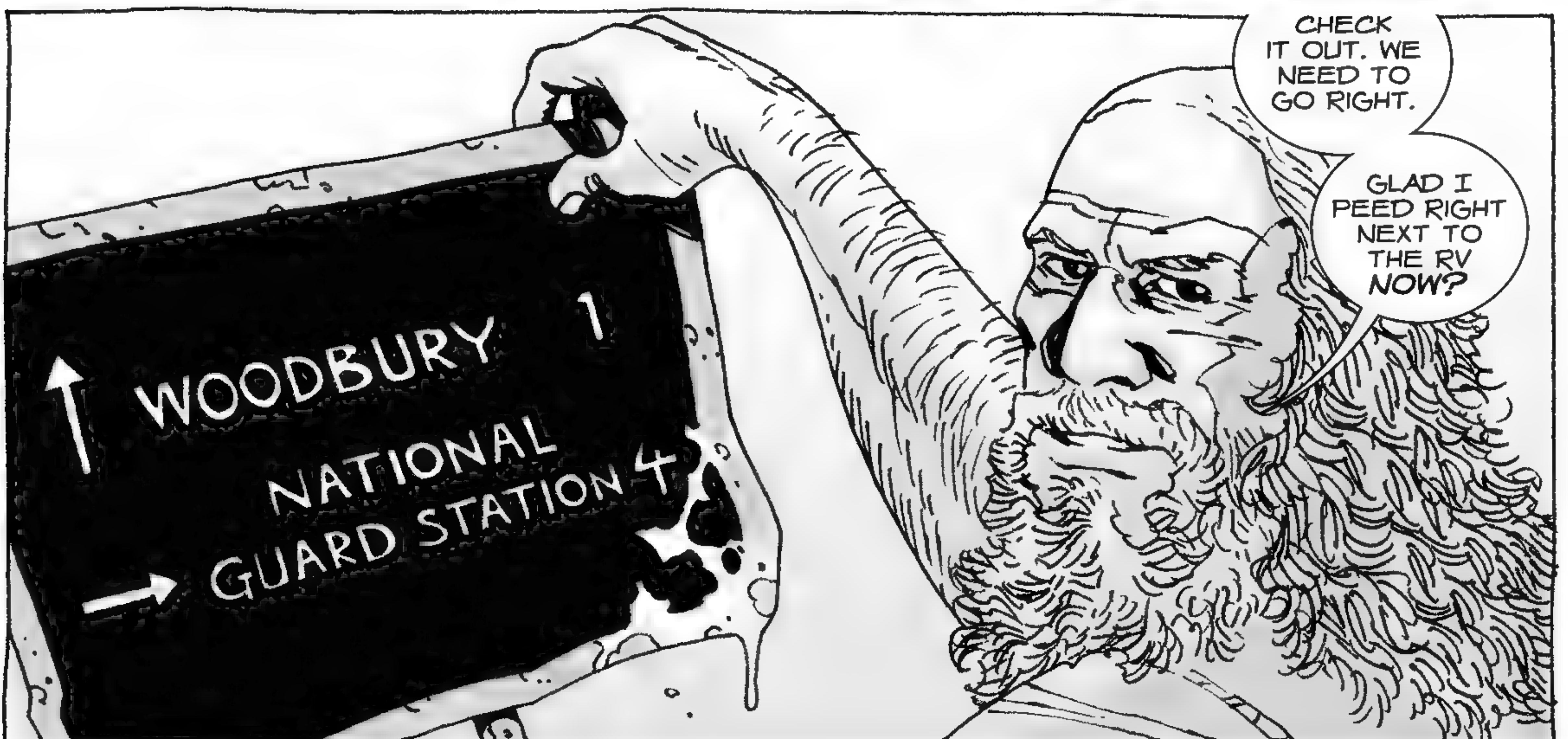
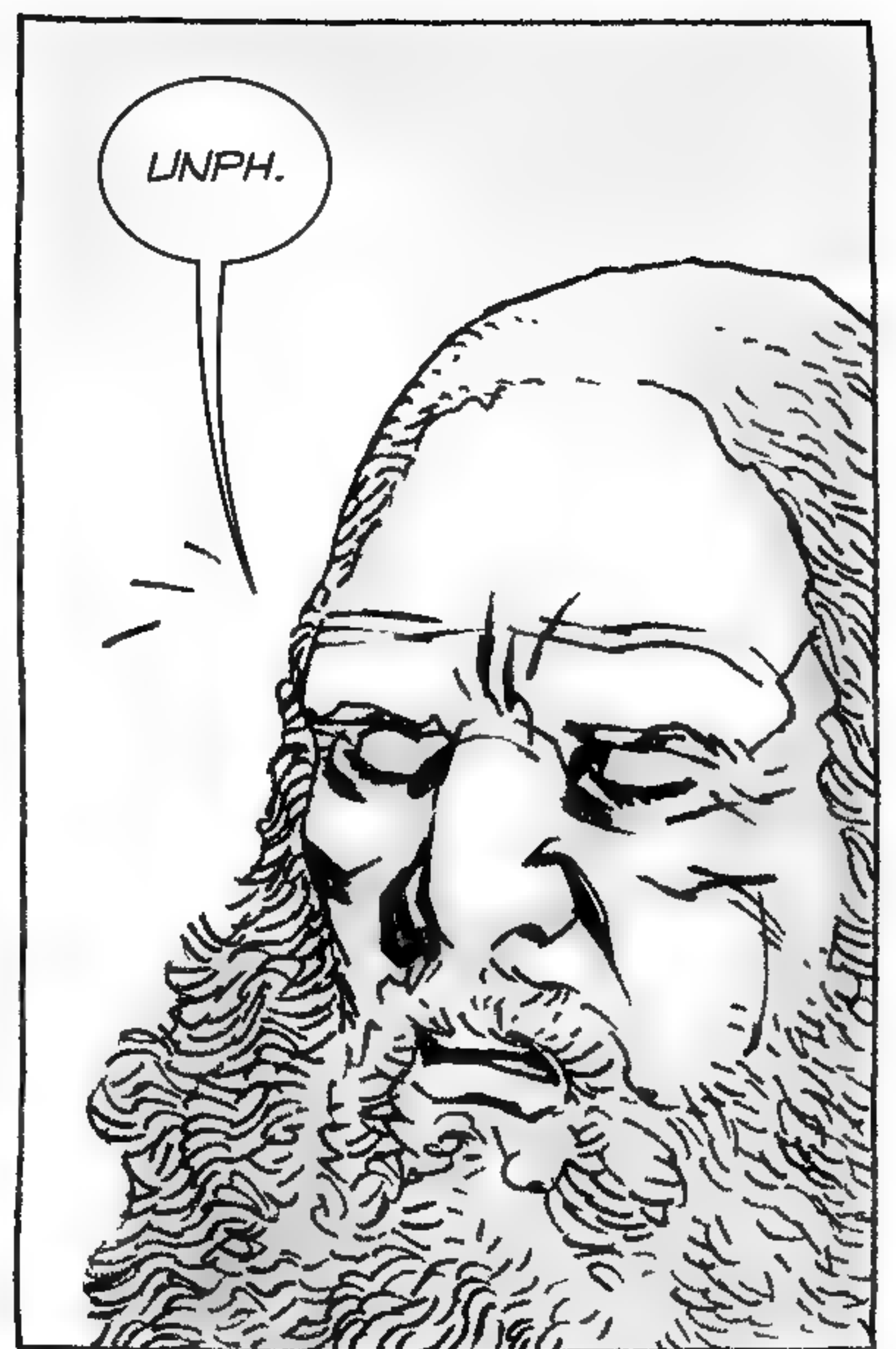
NICE.

YOU DON'T  
THINK YOU COULD  
WALK A LITTLE  
FURTHER AWAY  
BEFORE UNLEASHING  
THE HOUND?

I AIN'T  
WALKING OUT  
TO THE WOODS TO  
GET MY PECKER BIT  
OFF BY A ROAMER.  
YOU FOLLOW ME?

'SIDES--  
I GOT MY  
BACK  
TURNED.







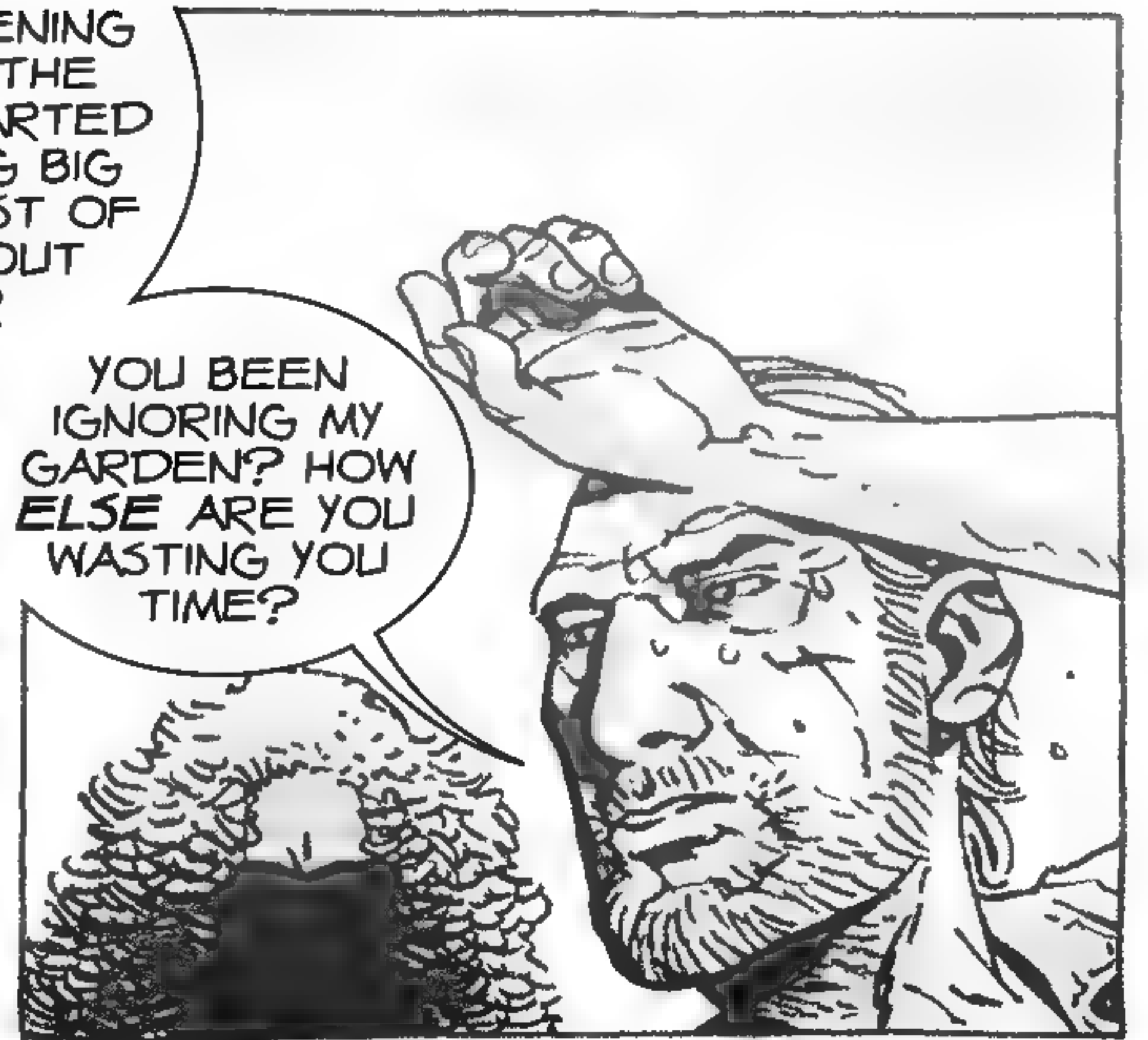


WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

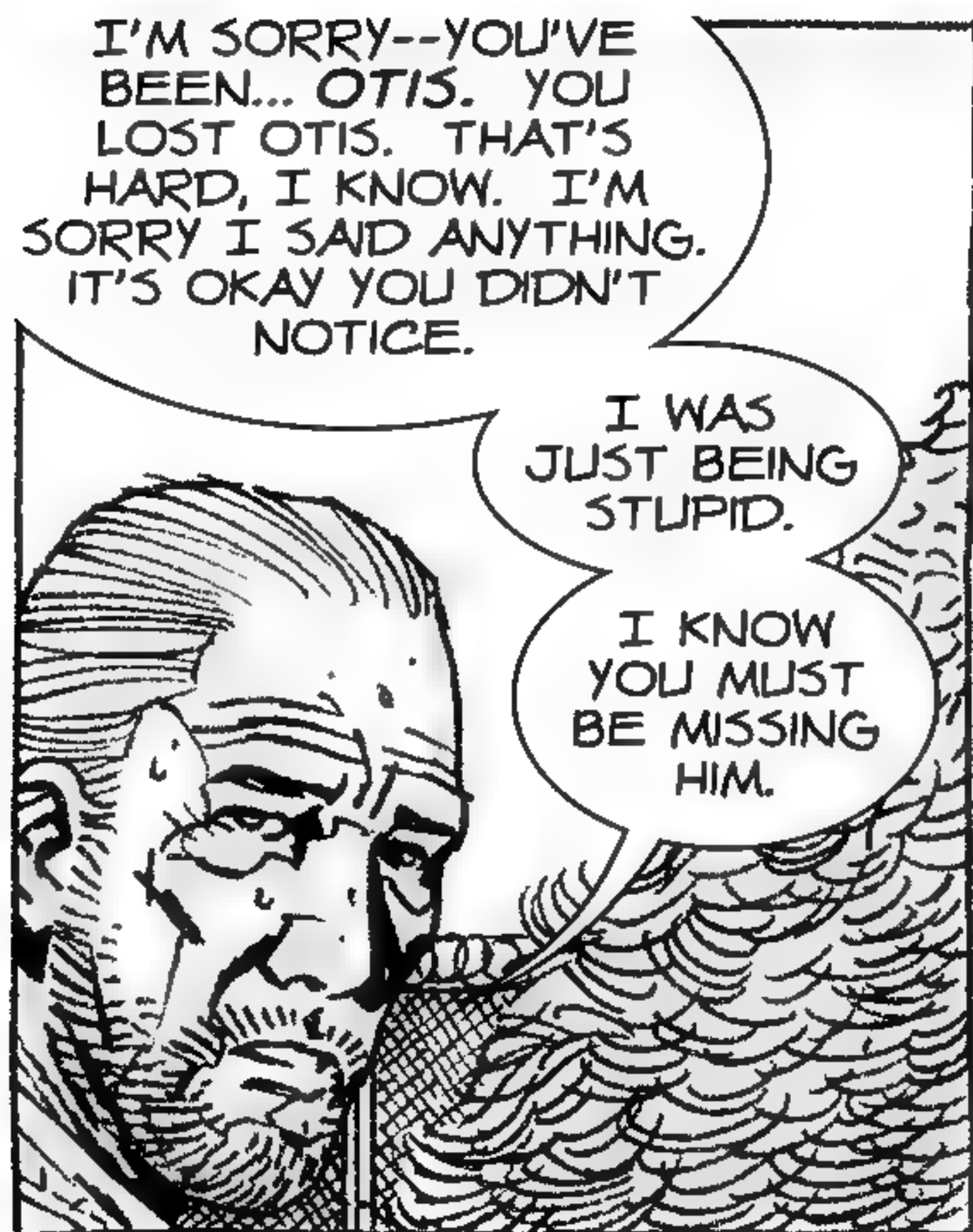
THE GARDEN?

IT'S BEEN HAPPENING FOR A WHILE. THE VEGETABLES STARTED REALLY GETTING BIG LAST WEEK--MOST OF THEM ARE ABOUT READY FOR PICKING.

YOU BEEN IGNORING MY GARDEN? HOW ELSE ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME?



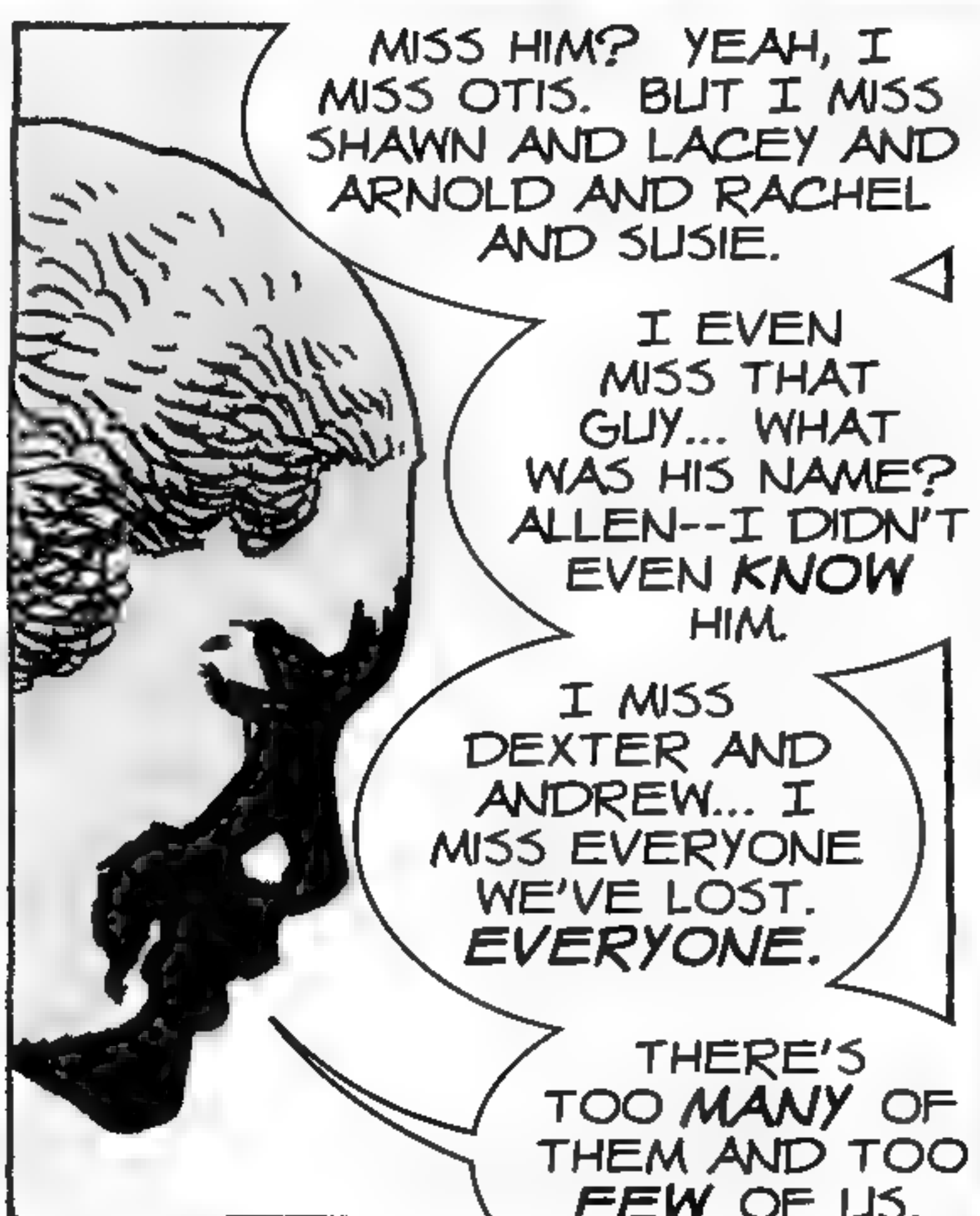
I'VE BEEN-- I DON'T KNOW...



I'M SORRY--YOU'VE BEEN... OTIS. YOU LOST OTIS. THAT'S HARD, I KNOW. I'M SORRY I SAID ANYTHING. IT'S OKAY YOU DIDN'T NOTICE.

I WAS JUST BEING STUPID.

I KNOW YOU MUST BE MISSING HIM.



MISS HIM? YEAH, I MISS OTIS. BUT I MISS SHAWN AND LACEY AND ARNOLD AND RACHEL AND SUSIE.

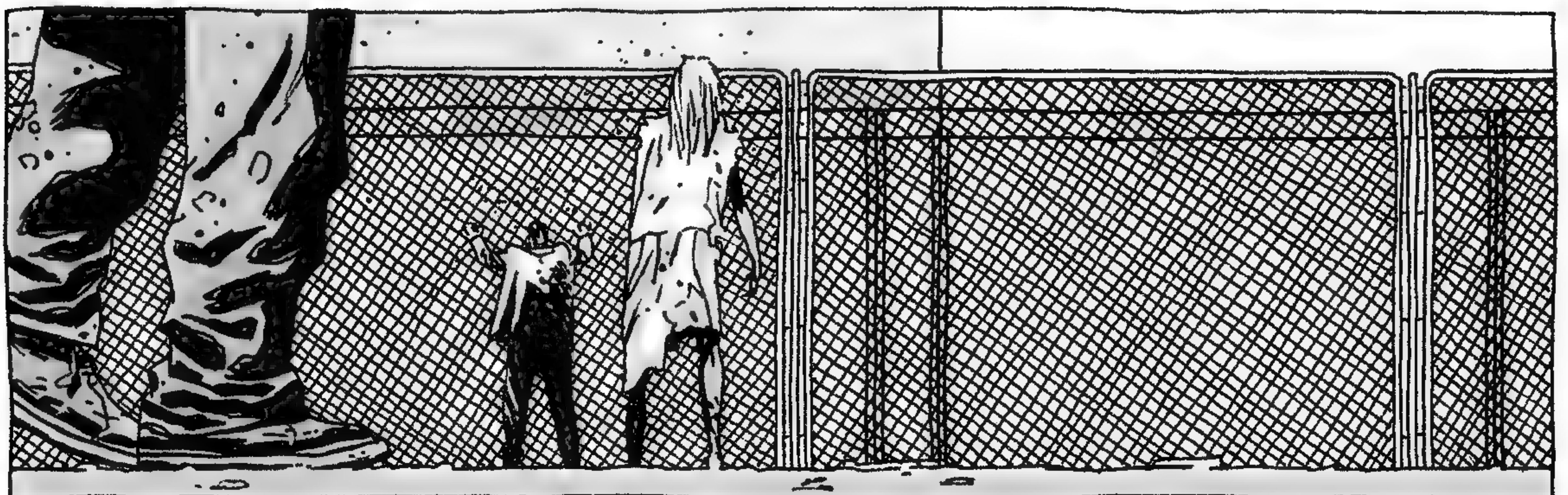
I EVEN MISS THAT GUY... WHAT WAS HIS NAME? ALLEN--I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIM.

I MISS DEXTER AND ANDREW... I MISS EVERYONE WE'VE LOST. EVERYONE.

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM AND TOO FEW OF US.



AMEN TO THAT.



















OH,  
HEY...

UM...

BILLY--IT'S  
BILLY. I'M  
HERSHEL'S SON.  
THE GUY WHO  
DOES THE  
FARMING.

THAT I KNEW. I'M  
SORRY. IT'S JUST  
TAKING ME TIME TO  
REMEMBER EVERYONE'S  
NAMES.

WHAT  
CAN I  
DO FOR  
YOU?

I GOT THIS HEADACHE.  
COMES AND GOES--  
BEEN GOING ON LONGER  
THAN I CAN REMEMBER.  
I FIGURE IT'S THE  
STRESS.

WAS  
THINKING, THOUGH...  
YOU MIGHT HAVE  
FOUND SOME ASPIRIN  
OR SOMETHING UP  
HERE. I HADN'T EVEN  
THOUGHT ABOUT IT  
UNTIL RECENTLY.



OH, SURE.  
I'VE GOT  
WHAT YOU  
NEED.

NO  
PROBLEM.



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
READING?

OH, UH...  
MEDICAL  
BOOKS.  
STUFF ABOUT  
DELIVERING  
BABIES.



WE GOT ALL  
KINDS OF STUFF  
IN HERE. THEY KEPT  
THIS CLOSET UNDER  
LOCK AND KEY. I  
HAD TO BREAK THE  
LOCK TO GET  
IN.

OH,  
HERE WE  
GO.



ASPIRIN.

THANKS.

SO--YOU  
THINK YOU  
CAN DO  
IT?



DO  
WHAT?

DELIVER  
LORI'S  
BABY.



I DON'T  
KNOW. I  
HOPE  
SO...

...BUT I  
REALLY  
JUST DON'T  
KNOW.





YOU GOT IT, MAGGIE?

I'M STRONGER THAN YOU ARE. SHUT UP.

I THINK THIS IS THE LAST OF IT... THERE WEREN'T A WHOLE LOT OF GUNS LEFT.

COOL. LET'S PACK IT UP--WE MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO GET BACK BEFORE DARK.



THAT IT? I MEAN--YOU THINK WE'VE FOUND EVERYTHING WE CAN FIND?

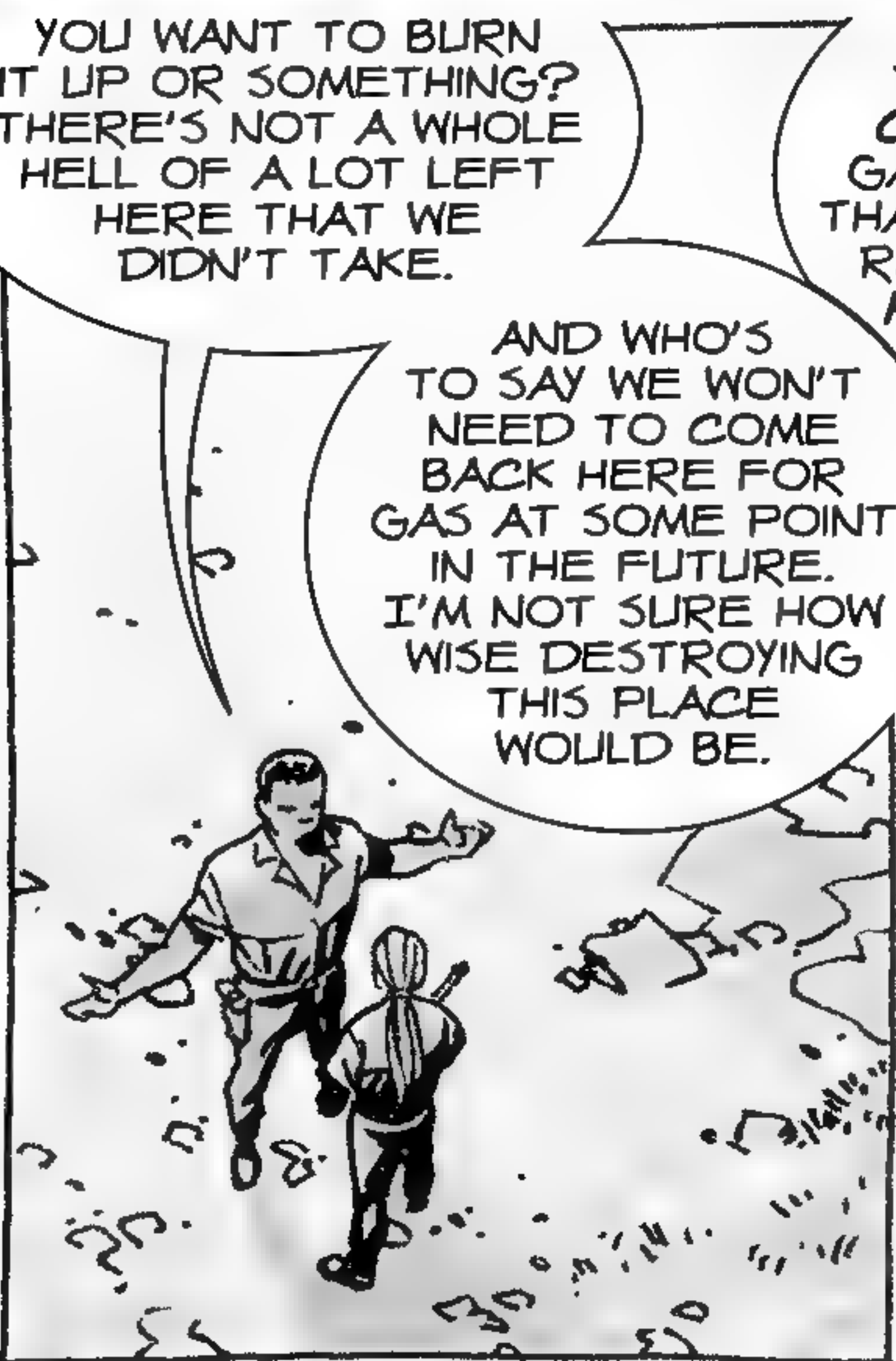


THINK SO.

IT'S NOT MUCH--BUT THIS TRIP WAS DEFINITELY WORTHWHILE--ALMOST FOR THE GAS ALONE.

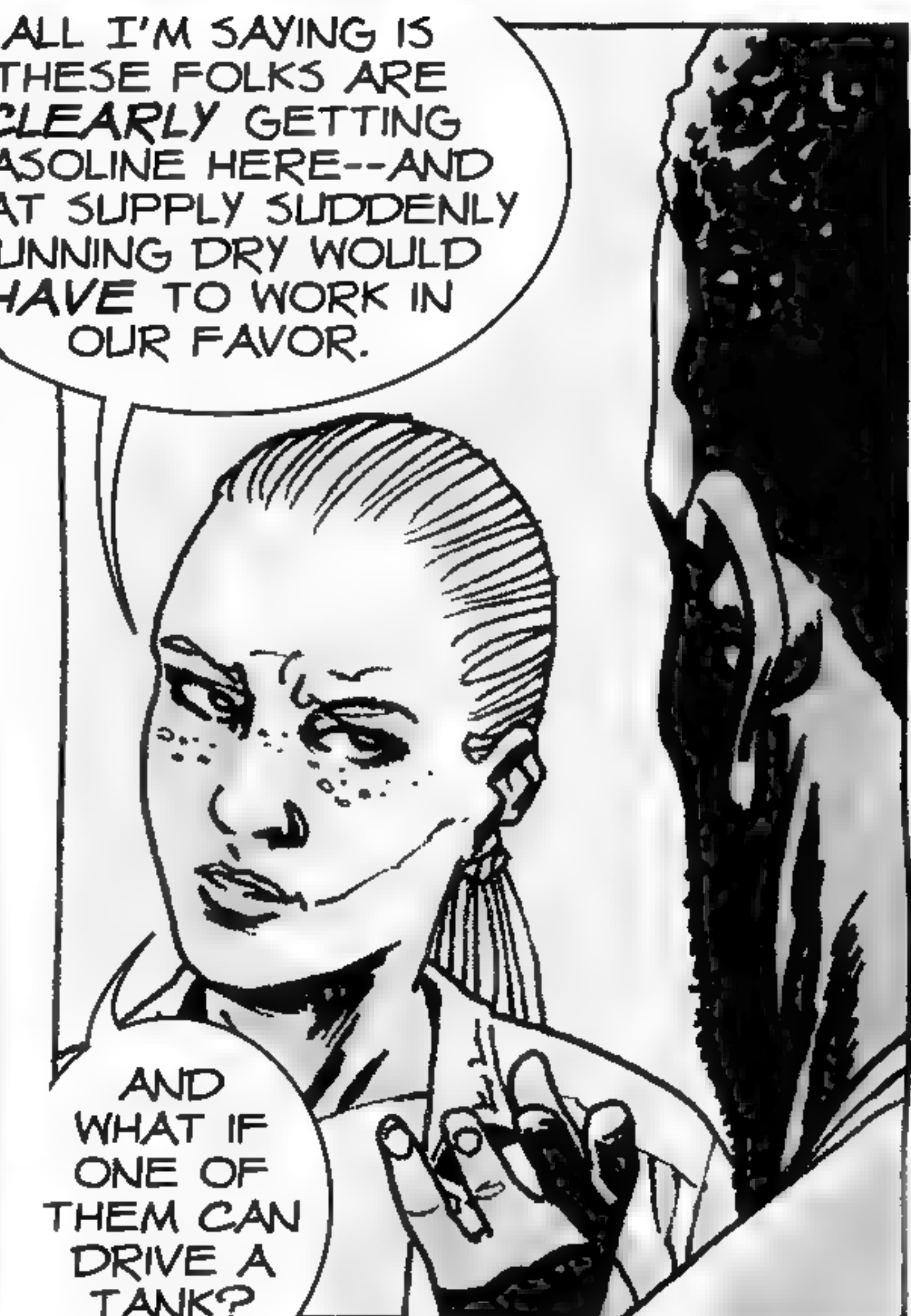


SO, WE JUST LEAVING THIS PLACE? I MEAN...THE GAS MOSTLY. YOU WANT TO JUST LEAVE THIS PLACE AS IS SO THEY CAN USE IT?



YOU WANT TO BURN IT UP OR SOMETHING? THERE'S NOT A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT LEFT HERE THAT WE DIDN'T TAKE.

AND WHO'S TO SAY WE WON'T NEED TO COME BACK HERE FOR GAS AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE. I'M NOT SURE HOW WISE DESTROYING THIS PLACE WOULD BE.



AND WHAT IF ONE OF THEM CAN DRIVE A TANK?

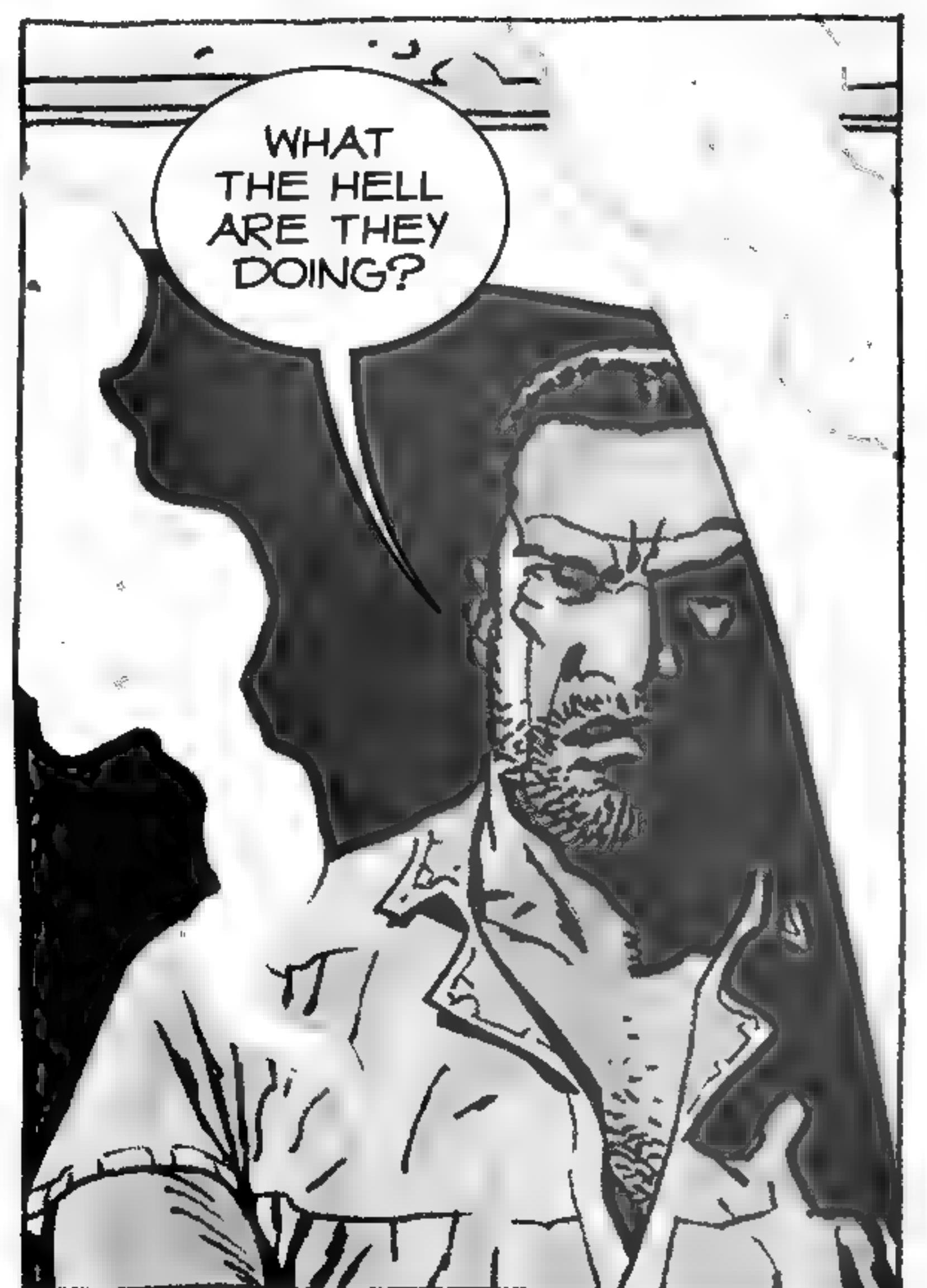
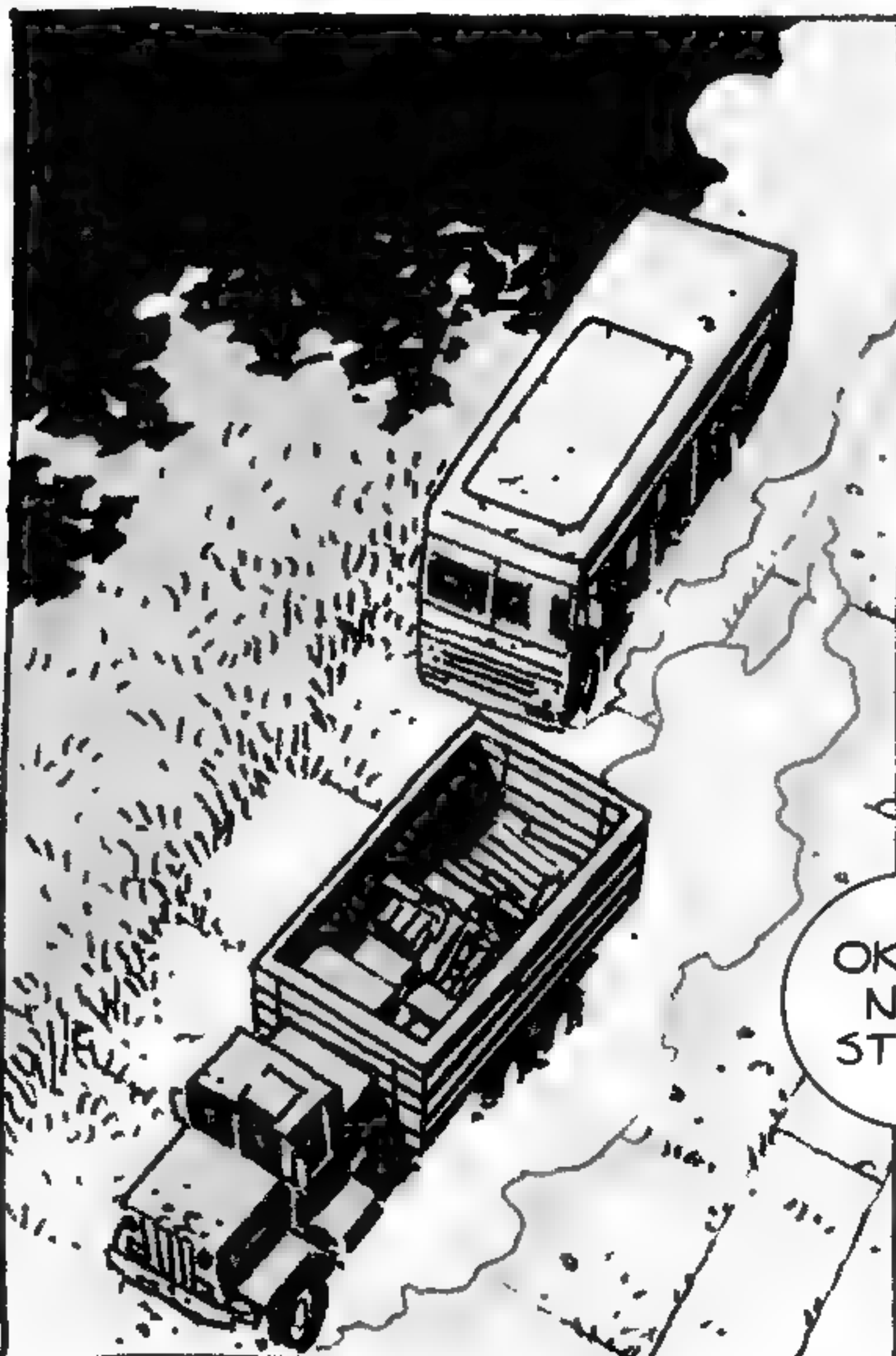
ALL I'M SAYING IS THESE FOLKS ARE **CLEARLY** GETTING GASOLINE HERE--AND THAT SUPPLY SUDDENLY RUNNING DRY WOULD **HAVE** TO WORK IN OUR FAVOR.













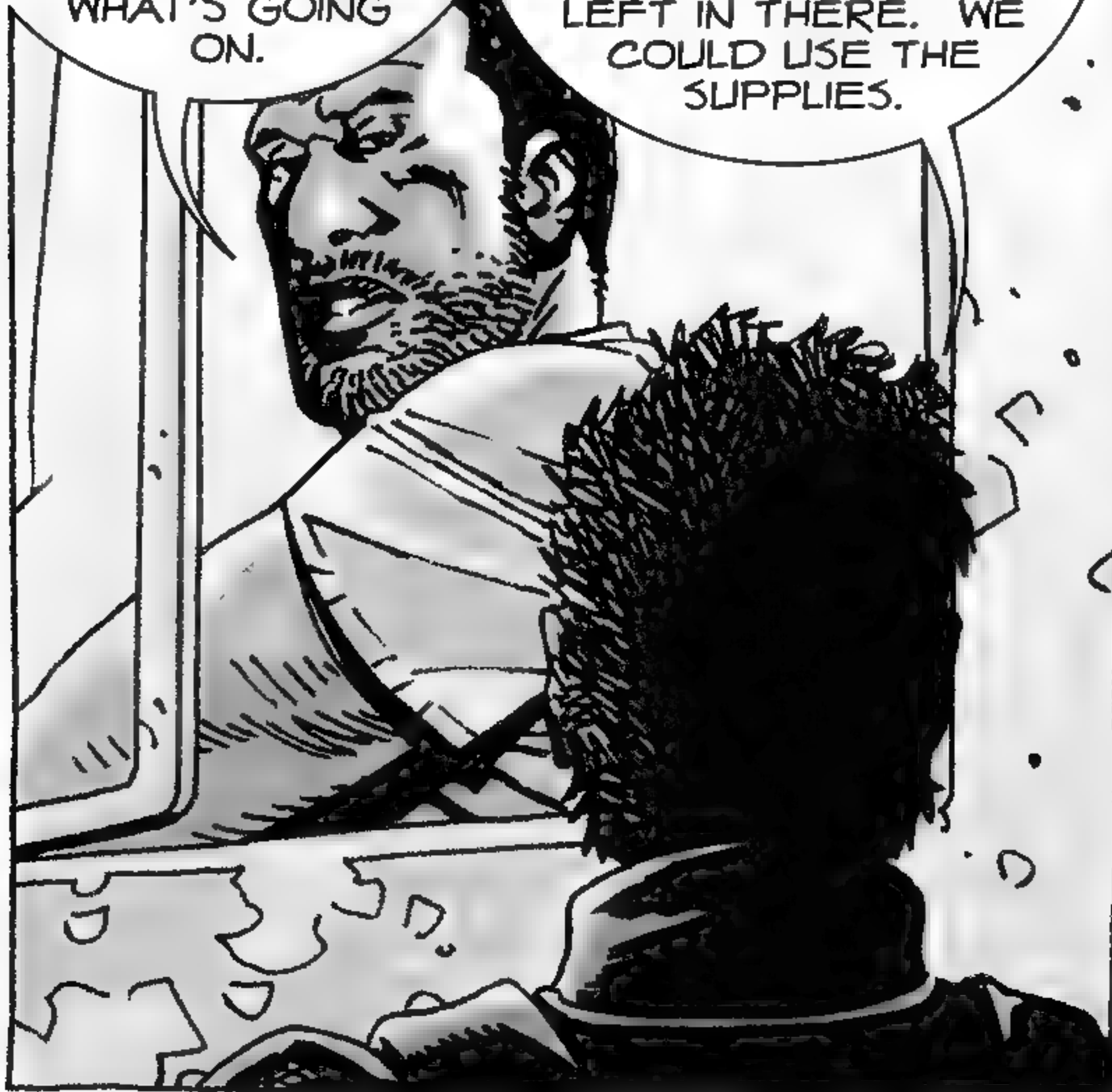


HEY!

TYREESE.

MAKE IT QUICK--WE  
NEED TO GET OFF  
THIS ROAD BEFORE  
THE FOLKS IN  
WOODBURY DRIVE  
DOWN TO SEE  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON.

SINCE THEY'LL BE  
PREOCCUPIED WITH  
THE NATIONAL GUARD  
STATION--I THINK WE  
SHOULD HIT THAT WAL-  
MART--SEE WHAT'S  
LEFT IN THERE. WE  
COULD USE THE  
SUPPLIES.



SURE.  
FINE.

WE JUST  
NEED TO BE  
QUICK ABOUT  
IT.



QUICK.

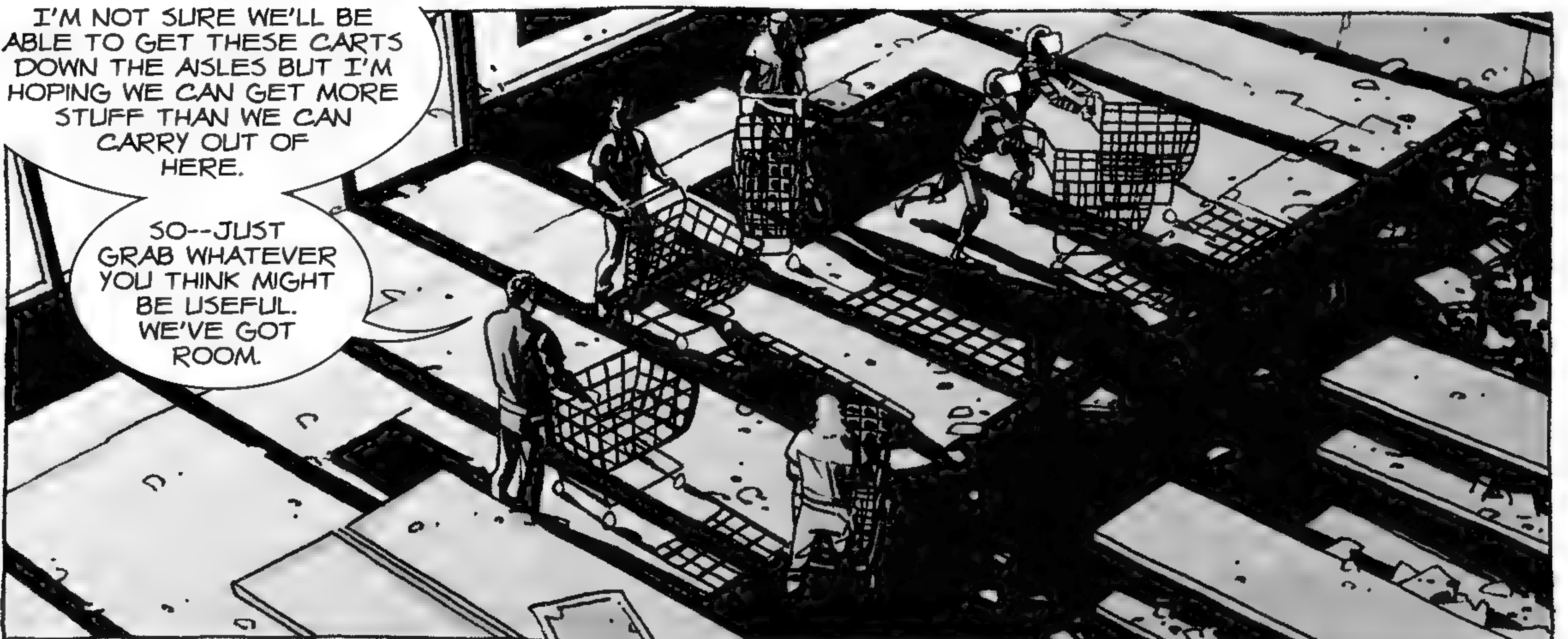
GOT IT.



YEAH--THERE'S  
NO WAY THEY'RE  
NOT GOING  
TO NOTICE  
THAT.

I'M NOT SURE WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO GET THESE CARTS  
DOWN THE AISLES BUT I'M  
HOPING WE CAN GET MORE  
STUFF THAN WE CAN  
CARRY OUT OF  
HERE.

SO--JUST  
GRAB WHATEVER  
YOU THINK MIGHT  
BE USEFUL.  
WE'VE GOT  
ROOM.













# NEXT ISSUE



Birth.

Chris P. 7/00



# LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD  
C/O FUNK-O-TRON  
P.O. BOX 54386  
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

I'm sure there's a ton of things I should probably be telling you about but there's a bunch of mail to answer since I ran that interview last issue instead of a letters column... so I gotta get caught up.

**So let's dive in shall we?**

Dear Mister Kirkman,

In issue 35, why is it the Asian guy who drives a car into a wall? Couldn't you have made the driver a white person? Why do you have to perpetuate the Asians-drive-badly stereotype?! Being a proud half-Asian, I'm somewhat offended. At LEAST half offended, to be sure!

For cryin' out loud, the Hispanic guy turns out to be a liar and a traitor? I can't BELIEVE you! Why couldn't he be a just, kind-hearted and honest friend? Your choices are getting worse and worse... And not only is the strong black female character, Michonne, raped and tortured--but she's also a schizophrenic?! You add even further insult upon injury, it's no wonder all these SINCERE and INTELLIGENT readers are dropping your book like a ruptured colostomy bag!

Also, why do you have so many white characters going through hell on earth, issue after issue? Do you hate white people, too? And those poor, poor zombies... EVERY issue, these helpless, hopeless beings are RE-KILLED left and right! Like the first time wasn't BAD enough! It's as if THEY DIDN'T MATTER TO YOU. Your offensiveness KNOWS NO BOUNDS, sir! Have you no cultural understanding or sympathy?

I implore you, please, stop this madness. For the sake of the few readers you have left.

Drew G.  
Berkeley, CA

PS -- Last issue was great writing, like every other issue before it. Keep up the good work, man.

**Excellent letter, young Drew.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you Drew Gill, production artist at Image comics. Take a bow, Drew. Way to take something very not funny and make it very funny.**

**It's good to know I have at least one reader left.**

**Well, kids it looks like that'll do it for this issue's installment of "Letter Hacks." I really appreciate you buying this issue and I hope--what? There's more?**

**Damn.**

ARGHHH!!!! I can't stand the suspense this comic is so good!!! Who's worried about zombies, it's your cliffhangers that are killing me!

I can't believe you: You left the Governor alive, overran the prison with zombies, didn't explain the helicopter, and set Woodbury only a few miles from the Prison? I love it! I hate waiting! What's gonna happen? 30 days is forever!!! (good job on the regular schedule!)

Well, we slipped again this ish--but seriously, this is the last time. Also, I DID explain the helicopter. The Governor mentioned where it was from in issue 28, I believe. They all kinda run together for me.

Here is what I want to have happen. I want ever escalating tribal battles! Rick's Tribe vrs the Governor's! I want to see Woodbury overrun by zombies when the Governor tries to take the prison. I want a long drawn out 3 way battle: Prison vs Woodbury vs Zombies. Then I want Rick to emerge as the leader of all the survivors. Then! I want Rick's Tribe to find/join a HUGE tribe. They work to clear the land of zombies, and succeed, things look good, then a giant swarm of migrating zombies sweeps in, hundreds die and it is utter terror!

Basically, I'm addicted to your writing and need you to take it up a notch so I can get the same high again. I've had to start buying Invincible & Antman. I just can't stand it. Could you get Bendis to let you write Ultimate Spiderman?

**He's too senile to know when it's time to move on. I'm working on it, though.**

Here's to sales doubling by Issue 50!  
Mahdrou McCaleb

**We can only hope...**

Robert Kirkman,

I have been enjoying the "Walking Dead" comics for a few months now. The local comic shop owner not only knows my first name but loves me. I ran into WD on issue 32. Since I have bought everything from 1-34. The topic is great and could run mini stories for years.

The characters are very real... and sad. I mean, Donna. Clueless, bent and now dead. Rick was so.. clueless and weak in the first few issues. He has managed to grow up and get some hardness to him. All just in time to become crippled with the broken hand and then having the hand chopped off. I mean "GAHH".

All in all the people are believable. I think I can "understand" each of them. Yet some of them, like the governor, just don't make sense. Unless you're going for the extreme things do crazy things to people.

Everything other than feeding strangers to the zombies, I can see and almost expect. You have to have something to really toss the readers around. What happened in the office when Rick lost his hand... I can see it going down that way. I expected Mac to act like she did and Glenn to gasp in horror, just like he did. Question, why was Glenn pretty much just locked up and left alone in the town? Mac was abused, Rick was not only cut but interrogated... Humm... did they do something to Glenn that your not ready to tell us about?

**I was just worried about Asian backlash... so I kept Glenn safe and sound in the room.**

There are only 2 problems I think I should address. Sometimes Mac's sword looks like a short sword, sometimes a regular length katana and sometimes it looks like a full blown Tachi (big long sword katana, weighs more). What size is it and don't tell me short sword because I really doubt that, even if wielded by a trained fighter there is no way a short blade would chop a skull in half.



**It's a katana. I can only imagine what you're seeing on the pages is foreshortening... and uh... forelongening.**

Mac's next door kid.. the sword collector.. more than likely had a bunch of cheap junk swords to begin with. 90% of these would have bent or broken by now. But if he had ordered one from a traditional sword maker, then yeah, perfect Mac sword. Those happen to cost around 2 grand to start. Very possible the kid bought one of those and Mac happened to pick the good one out of the bunch. (My buddy ordered a "real" katana and it is sweet)

**Michonne was a lawyer, I imagine she probably lived in a pretty nice neighborhood next to a rich family with a spoiled brat who got whatever he wanted.**

But man, Mac is so bad news with the blade. She did not get that from fencing class! Not even Kendo in the US teaches the sword play that she uses. Maybe she could wing it using her fencing.

**I imagine it is part fencing and part living on your own killing zombies nonstop for about six months.**

I'm thinking either she is some sort of agent, trained martial artist or the slim chance that she watched a few good movies and sort of figured it out along the way. No matter what, she is messed up in the head.

**Indeed.**

We NEED some depth into Mac's past. Maybe reveal something to us. Bring Mac "in" more. Turn her from a strange, off minded, power character that is mysterious into someone that your readers might know in real life, that became a power player because of something.

**Thought I did that?**

Next, Why is it that the zombies just... appear... five feet away and jump on people? If anyone is half paying attention, they will clearly see the zombies coming, in the woods or not. Shoot, in the woods you would hear their foot steps in the leaves... It makes me think that the characters are not doing their job. Like the attack in the woods when the team is going back to the prison?? Just all of a sudden they are surrounded? If the zombies move 1/2 or 1/3 speed... that is.. very unlikely. Unless no one is paying attention.

**Zombies move VERY slowly, so in order for them to be close enough to attack, they were probably already practically in their path, only moving a few feet to get to them.**

Would that make noise? Six zombies moving ten or fifteen feet toward a human as it walked toward them? Sure. It'd make a bit of a rustling noise, branches moving, footsteps on leaves, etc. BUT... would it make as much noise as five people hustling through the woods? No. Rick, Glenn, Michonne, Alice and Martinez would have made so much noise moving through the woods, even if they were trying to be quiet, that they would have alerted the zombies to their arrival early enough for the zombies to be coming at them from their already-pretty-close-position and it would also muffle any noise the zombies would be making on their way.

**So actually, the scene works just fine.**

My favorite thing... It seems to me that people like to look through a door way, then turn their backs on it to have a spill of dialog then they have the look of surprise when they get jumped from behind... People.. HA! I think Donna and the Doctor deserved to die for doing that.

**They probably did.**

Wow long two questions. Can we have a real power player come along? Another Mac but perhaps before the war they were a soldier/karate guy? One that will tell you straight up that my sword style is this "fill in blank" or my style is my own blend of "fill in blank". Perhaps bend them some too. Give them a thirst to kill zombies. Maybe you will have someone to keep the outside of the prison cleared. :D

**There are more new characters on the way, not too soon, but eventually. Don't worry.**

Oh, and the prison problem... Go to the parking lot, get a SUV, gas it up... then lure the biters outside the gates (less clean up) then play "Crazy driver" where the point is to clip a biter and then back over them like squishey speed bumps. :D Secure the area and then clean house again. Find the family. Wait for the governor! by the way. The governor still has that one riot suit. :D

Sorry for the tangent... Keep up the work and keep them coming! And if you need help, you know where I'm at! :D

Don

**If I get stumped, I'll give you a call. Thanks for writing.**

"Hey--you're on time, great!"

**Sigh. I regret that already.**

But seriously, while nine issues in 2006 is below-par for a monthly book, at least you managed to get more issues out than Frank Miller and Jim Lee. Zing!

**We also manage to get more issues out than almost ANY OTHER long-running independent comic. We're doing okay.**

In response to Zach's letter in issue 34, if there's one thing this book can't be accused of, it's "losing it's unpredictability". After the traumatic events Rick and Michonne went through at Woodbury, I was waiting for the inevitable tearful reunion back at the prison... Wow! Suffice to say I was stunned with this issues cliffhanger and really hope you manage to get issue 35 on the stands as soon as possible.

**I think we managed that--only to have a bit of a delay between 37 and this issue.**

And while I'm talking about that final sequence, can I just applaud Charlie Adlard's art. I for one get bored of the constant "He's not Tony Moore" letters that get sent in, and feel Charlie's art is perfectly suited to this book. That splash page of the zombie-infested prison was awe-inspiring, and the second spread of cut-shots of the zombies roaming the prison walls really hammered home the situation.

**Charlie is amazing.**

Anyway, here's to getting half-a-dozen issues out in 2007!

**We're shooting for 18.**

Paul Shinn

PS. Oh and thanks for including the Image Holiday Special story in the back of the book. That was a welcome surprise. Nice to know your mindful of the readers that are picking up the single issues.

**I try to be as accommodating as possible. I figure that things been out for a year or so, might as well share it in the book. And y'know... anything to have an excuse to write a shorter letters column. Sigh.**

Dear Mr. Kirkman and the Gang.

Holy \$#%#@!!!

In my 29 years of life. I don't think anything printed has shocked me the way WD 34 did. After the intensity of the last issue, I kinda expected you to give us readers a chance to catch our breaths. But nope, you just couldn't.....You relentless bastard!!!! Thank You!!!

The 2 page spread of the prison filled with zombies....had me scooping my own brains off the floor....because my head was totally blown!!!!

Just a few statements

1. Thank You

2. Quality all ways exceeds quantity.....even if it was 4 or 5 issues in one year.....it would still be my favorite title. This is one really special book. I'd wait years for a new issue if I had to.

**Thankfully you won't have to. We want to put the book out as much as possible too.**

3. Have you tried out the audiobook for World War Z? It has a few great voices like Mark Hamill, Alan Alda, Henry Rollins and so forth. Worth checking out. And it's pretty cheap on iTunes.

**I hear it cuts stuff from the book for length. I'd rather just read the book if I can find time.**

Anyways.....awesome issue guys. Thanks for you time.

Duane Hand



**Keep reading and we'll keep promising to ship issues on time only to slip a bit in the schedule time after time. EXCELSIOR!**

---

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

The Walking Dead is awesome! God, you're so good at pulling people in and never letting go!!

Anyways, what kind of collection of comics do you own, personally? And also, do you follow any current series?

**A big one. I have, well, about 20 long boxes of comics at this point, maybe more. I work in my basement, half of it is a studio and the other half is a comic book storage center. I have every comic book I've ever bought. Except for Sword of Azrael #1. I sold that when it was worth a bit of money so that I could buy the first Savage Dragon TPB. It had all kinds of new pages in it that I just had to have.**

Right now I read Noble Causes, Dynamo 5, Godland, Savage Dragon (if it ever comes out), Astro City, Ex Machina, Y The Last Man, Astonishing X-Men, Ultimate Spider-Man, Ultimates, Daredevil, Criminal, PVP, Fell, Casanova, Jack Staff, She Hulk, Powers, New Avengers, Mighty Avengers, Captain America, 100 Bullets, All-Star Batman and Robin, All-Star Superman, I'd read anything written, drawn or both by Walt Simonson, Geoff Darrow, Bryan Lee O'Malley, Bob Fingerman, David Finch, Dale Keown, Olivier Colpel, Mike Wieringo, Cory Walker, Craig Thompson, Lienil Francis Yu, and any number of people who I can't seem to recall right now. I'm doing this off the top of my head. There's a ton of other stuff I'm sure I read that I'm forgetting. I get a lot of TPBs as well... and there's a lot of reading I do just to bone up on Marvel stuff for reference purposes.

Okay, one final question. What kind of music gets you pumped up to write TWD?

Awesomely sincere,  
Will C.

**Not really. I listen to music while I write but nothing specifically to get me into the mood for writing TWD. If I did it'd be Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds or The Dirty Three. That stuff gets me all mellow and relaxed and it's got a darker edge to it. But I usually just sit down and write, mostly while listening the The Presidents Of The United States Of America (best band since the Beatles--am I right?).**

---

Whoa!! That book was awesome! I hope that was the last we'll see of the Mayor.. in 'Live form' anyway. -But there's one thing that bugs me, if everyone is already infected and you die from zombie bites. right? Michonne bites the mayor when they're wrestling or whatever and so im just wondering wheather he'd die from it and turn cannibal dead too.

**No, a zombie bite kills you because it's a rotting, germ filled corpse breaking the skin and sending all kinds of nasty junk right into your blood stream. It gets you infected with all kinds of stuff and you die from the resulting illness. Then, because everyone is "infected" with whatever the zombie plague is... once you die, you come back as a zombie. A bite from a human wouldn't kill you any more than a bite usually would.**

Heh. it'd be ironic if he was put in that fighting ring. Also, the last couple of issues had me really excited i even almost cried at the end of issue 34! I'm sure the others will be alright, right? RIGHT!? i hope Axel isn't dead. hehe. Also, im sure they can take the Prison back from the Axis Zombies. I've been jumping up and down laughing and smiling and going crazy over the story. It's awesome, though my mum thinks I've gone nuts.

I've also got a couple of questions;  
1. Will you show us whatever happened in the prison? Like a flashback, it could be lame, we wouldn't want a GN version of Lost now. Oo Maybe even a totally different book, maybe you've already got it sorted and i'm just wasting your time.

**There's really no need to see what happened in the prison. I'm trying to use flashbacks as sparingly as possible.**

2. Carol is hot, can you give her, her own girlfriend? Maybe Alice? Whoo!

**I'll see what I can do.**

3. It'd be cool to see cameo's in TWD, do you think you'd ever put them in?

eg, in my comic book, i bring back he same zombie over and over again, (maybe Michonne recognises a little girl outside the prison -the same one from the mayors room) my friends think its stupid but still funny. I would tell you the title but i dont want to turn this letter into an advertisement! (Also im ametuer comic book writer)

**No plans. Although there is ONE zombie who's appeared no less than three different times in the book. Look for him!**

4. I notice that in most Zombie books, movies or Graphic Novels they never actually call them Zombies. They call them "monsters" or "things" but never Zombies. Do you know why that is?

**Most of those movies don't take place in worlds where zombie movies don't exist. So the term zombie hasn't been appropriated for use the way it has here. The Walking Dead takes place in our world, as if this stuff had started happening in October 2003 and continued from there. Now, in the book it's still only like... June 2004 at this point (if you're keeping track), but these people would at least be aware of the existence of zombie movies. They don't really talk about it much... because that would be silly.**

Also, 5. do you think you could get a character to (always) refer to them as Zombies?

**There's been a few times... I don't think it's gotten to the point where the term is used exclusively. Maybe in time.**

OK, so that's all I can think of right now, a bit lame, but I can't wait to see issue 35! Thanks heaps!

-Isaako

**Thanks for reading!**

---

Hey, what gives? I drool and wait for what seems like an eternity, and when issue #35 of TWD comes out...the last page is messed up...

And by messed up, I mean you reprinted the page where Tyreese apologizes to Rick. We love (or hate) the "surprise cliffhanger endings" at the end of each issue...and I was very upset to see that we were denied the "ending" of this issue.

(Especially since Tyreese was hinting that something was up since Martinez was "INSIDE for HOURS)

(( By they way...did you see the way he looked at Andrea on Page # 7 ?...maybe that's what he was INSIDE...that would cause some drama ))

Anyway, will you send me (us) a properly revised copy of the issue? Or will the last page be included in issue # 36? Or are we, the readers, S.O.L. ???

Inquiring minds want to know....thanks.  
J.D.

**When issue 35 was first printed, it was messed up, and it was my fault. I downloaded the proofs and didn't look at them right away. Image contacted me the next day to see if I had looked over the proofs and thinking back, I remembered downloading them, and I USUALLY look at the right away, so I figured I must have looked at them, and I didn't REMEMBER there being a problem... so I approved the book. So then, when the book came in and was fucked up (page 21 printed twice instead of 22) I couldn't really do anything. The printer wouldn't reprint if free of charge since it wasn't their fault. So I reprinted the issue on my dime, eating the cost of an entire separate print run.**

**I'm still kicking myself for doing that.**

**But we participate in a retailer first look program, where retailers get copies of book a week early so they can show customers and adjust orders if they think they need more copies. I thought it'd be neat to let some of the BAD copies leak out in that program. It's only 1500 copies or something. I figured they'd be collectors items, or a neat variant version for people to hunt down.**

**But I didn't exactly announce this, so maybe it wasn't the best idea.**

**Anyway, the vast majority of the print run 25,000 or so are completely fine. So you should have no trouble returning that copy to a retailer and getting a good one.**



**If you do have trouble, email me and I'll see about getting you a replacement copy (and they goes for anyone who accidentally got a messed up copy).**

---

Hey Robert

I am a fan of your myriad of comics walking dead my favorite "comic in general". my wife and I read Walking Dead together "only comic she reads". I decided to write after reading all the letters about racism, which is bogus, I think you could be a little more sensitive to the letters you get but when I read the infamous rape comic nothing racial came to mind. When I first saw Caesar Martinez I was excited about a hispanic being a zombie survlvior "my last name being Martinez" but I didn't cry racism when you made him a bad guy in issue 35. You are a white fellow you write what you know, I see all your characters as racial neutral, unlike other writers I have read like stephen king, where he writes about a 30+ year old black women with a southern accent in a number of his books. He will never know what it's like to be a black women of any age and him trying to write dialogue for them comes out racist. I like the way you write ethinc characters neutral as if they are white, because stereotypes don't belong in good writing. I want to read your story YOUR story, make these characters as real as possible but dont write silly accents or crazy fictional backgrounds for different ethic characters. Everything you have done so far in this book as been great and no racism or sexism. My wife and I will continue to read your comics (she is white by the way) as long as the series runs or you become boring. Your comic is gold.

-Martinez

**I don't know if I'd say I write all my characters "white" just because I don't write slang. I appreciate the comments, though.**

**Also appreciate you not crying foul over the whole Martinez, Hispanic thing. I almost rewrote the whole story to not kill Martinez but in the end I decided to just stick with my guns. I think if you if you read 35 again you'll see he's not exactly a bad guy. If he was telling the truth, I think Rick is almost the bad guy in that situation. Martinez was just wanting to help his people... they were just people Rick didn't trust.**

---

Kirkman,

I am a new convert to TWD. In fact I was not a comic book reader at all until I found out about TWD.

I love how you portray Glenn it the book. He is a well rounded character. It is a breath of fresh air to see an Asian character portrayed in a non-stereotype role. He is smart, interactive, industrious, and gets the girl.

Kent

**It's letters like these that help me fight the urge for Glenn to break out into some karate whenever there's trouble. Thank God for these letters, people.**

---

Mr. Kirkman,

Yesterday I read the most recent issue of "The Walking Dead" (#35) and wanted to write a quick note to let you know I was a little disappointed. Not in the story! That was great. I liked it very much. My mistake was continuing my reading once the story ended. The Letter's Column. Then, I became disappointed.

Normally, I will avoid the letters column of most "popular" books. The reason being; most of the letters within will fall into one of several categories:

- 1) Praise. These letters are fine. They let the artist know that they are not working in isolation and re-enforce their commitment to the book. In fact, these letters should be given to the artist(s) involved to spur them forward.
- 2) Analysis. Personally, I do not think that any intelligent, critical analysis should exist in the same pages of the publication that the analysis is being performed upon. In fact, I am not sure if an issue-by-issue analysis is even possible on an ongoing monthly. Possibly a body of work or a story arc could be subject of such a "discussion", but with the pacing of modern comics, I think the issue- by-issue analysis is limited at best and a wasted effort at worst. As an example, I offer the concept of the story pacing. In the infancy of comics, the dramatic backdrop was informed by books and short stories. Today? Maybe it's film. Your book is not

alone in the pacing style. Maybe everyone is using Final Draft to write their comics now - so the pacing is more cinematic. (at least it makes it easier to adapt to the screen later on - you clever, soon-to-be-rich guy!). The challenge is that trying to analyze the story as it unfolds is like trying to review a movie every 10 minutes. It makes no sense. The pacing of a story requires that you juggle many threads and then synthesize them in come clever way at the end (of an arc or the work). I'll wait for you to be interviews in the Comics Journal or some other publication - thanks.

3) Speculation. Okay - maybe this is really the same as #2 above. However, this particular form of analysis seeks to "figure out" what the artist is doing. I am not very fond of this type of speculation. To me, it seems as if the letter writer is trying to either win a fictitious contest with the artist to figure out what is going to happen before it is presented - or they are trying to "steal" the story and generate their own fictional premises upon it. Let them wait until the story is told before trying to pay it homage!

4) Criticism. This is the most evil of all the letter types. Critical feedback is important to help an artist grow. However, criticism while the work is being performed is dangerous. To my mind, if someone chooses to criticize a work in progress, what they are really trying to do is shape the artists performance to match their personal desires. It seems that your letters column has had some of this type of feedback in reference to the recent rape sequence. A rape of a human being. It seems that some folks with to politicize and/or attribute more to the scene than it may deserve. Personally, I found it disturbing. Thank god I did. Otherwise, I would quite the monster and de-humanized (something many violent comics can help me with should I choose). The fact that this scene was disturbing and was part of a larger story about the loss of control, fear, survival, and (hiding in there) - solidarity and hope - speaks to the fact that this work Isn't just some "zombie" book. The zombies are representative of something else. However, I digress into point #2 above here. Let's see you get a couple hundred issues done before we start deep analysis :) In reference to this particular sequence - it was not the colour of the skin, but the violence and violation that disturbs me - as it should. You are creating apocalyptic fiction. A genre in which the visual arts (comics and movies for example) tend to treat less than intelligently. Normally the script calls for "me...KILL....Yoooooooouuuuuu!" not for a deep conversation on loss and coping. Could you have handled this scene differently? Yes. Did you? No. I understand and respect that you told it the way you felt it should be told. See below.

So, why am I writing? Where does this little letter "fit" in my above world? It's a new category! Encouragement. It seems as if you have taken a few "hits" lately and I wanted you to know that the book is being appreciated by this one reader. Please remain true to your artistic vision and do not allow any feedback to shape the telling our YOUR story. I accept my role as the READER and encourage you to continue yours as the WRITER. With that agreement in place, I look forward to your story as it unfolds. There will be parts that will disturb, amuse, and inspire my faith in survival (or else I will silently stop buying the book). I will not attempt to tell you how or what to present. That is YOUR job and any attempt on my part to make you conform to my wishes seems insincere in the spirit of our Reader/Writer relationship. If worst came to worst and I was really concerned about it - I suppose I could write my own stories. Those, of course, would be perfect in every way and subject only to praise and acclaim! (haha).

So keep up the work. It can neither be said to be good or bad. It is yours to create and mine to consume as I see fit to spend my time and resources. So far - the value to me has been huge. I enjoy it.

Regards,  
Frank

**Thank you for writing and for the encouragement. As far as me taking a few hits in the letters column goes. It's not quite as bad as it reads. I print less than half of the mail this book receives, it gets quite a bit. So I pick and choose what to print. I could easily manipulate things and just print positive mail... then it would look like nobody had any problems with this book. But that makes for a really dull letters column and that's no good at all. So instead, I print the most interesting letters, the ones that will generate the best responses... and a lot of times--it's the negative mail that does that. So I usually print ALL the negative mail I get. So every single letter complaining about Michonne got printed, except for maybe a few, since they got a little repetitious after a while.**



**But if you read the letters column you'd think there was an overwhelming outcry for my head after that issue. There wasn't.**

---

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Let me kick things off with applause for your artists. Adlard and Rathburn have done an excellent job differentiating the characters through hairstyles, body types and clothing. Issue 35 in particular made everyone look distinct in almost every panel. I really appreciate that in a black and white comic book that for a while had everyone wearing the same uniform.

**Well, that's a welcome change to the usual complaint.**

Anyone calling what happened to Michonne a "rape fantasy" has too many suppressed fetishes to be casting aspersions at your book. It was horrible, disturbing, and unless they missed it, was avenged in a fashion more revolting than can be described in a single word. I'm a white male reader, and nothing about what happened to Michonne gave me even a fleeting sexual urge, let alone make me want to "whack off." If readers of any race think that subject material is arousing to the majority of Caucasians, they themselves have racist delusions they should deal with.

It may not help my judgment that Michonne is my favorite character in the book. You've managed to write an assertive, ass-kicking, foe-maiming female character who has never once gotten on my nerves. She's creeped me out, but that's another matter. I'm terribly interested to see what becomes of her "conversations." I almost called it her "eccentric behavior," but that describes almost everything she's done. How many characters debut using a pair of castrated zombies as veritable sled dogs?

Also, I've been pronouncing it me-SHONE in my head.

**Close enough. Hell, you could be right.**

Issue 35 had a real spark to it. I was struck by the great little moments you had in there. Like Rick's son figuring a zombie must have bitten his dad for his hand to be gone, with no one seeming to think that such a horrible thing was the result of human malice. Or like when Rick is alone with his wife and shushes her by placing the index finger of his one remaining hand on her lips. It's very clever stuff, but not full of itself. That's my favorite thing about your writing.

Here's my Comic Book Nerd Question: is the guy getting hit by the car on the top panel of the second page in issue 35 based on a real person? Given all the undead Charlie Adlard has to draw, I'm sure he's used at least a few real faces. This one seems a little conspicuous, though I can't put my finger on why.

**As far as I know it isn't. Charlie doesn't do that very much as I recall.**

Thank you for the excellent comics. You've quickly become one of my favorite writers. Period.

Cheers,  
John W.

**Thank you very much John Wayne... you quickly became one of my favorite letter writers... and actors.**

---

Kirkman,

Thank you. Truly thank you, and not just for your wonderful book, but because of how you have affected people, myself included, with your stories. Notably the Woodbury arc of TWD has been the cause of some fascinating letters in your book. When I read other books letter pages it's always filled with people writing long winded paragraphs about how mad or upset they are about a costume change, or something equally inane. but your book, has people up in arms and discussing important issues such as rape, racism, and social classism These issues need to be addressed, and it is sometimes viewed as not polite to discuss these things in daily life, and so the problems and issues never get any serious thought, but you have given people an outlet, and promoted discussion and renewed passion in very real social problems. However unintentional they may be. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. It's just good to see people really thinking and discussing things of actual importance.

Ok. now on to some nerd stuff.  
1) Where can I get a subscription to the walking dead, so that I can have it show up at my house?

**I believe [www.mycomicshop.com](http://www.mycomicshop.com) offers subscription services... but I know there are a bunch out there.**

**Image Comics itself does not offer a subscription service.**

2) What are some monthly books do you read currently?

**I already went over this earlier in this very letters column.**

3) Can this be published in issue 36? pretty please?

**How about 38? Does that work?**

Your Reader for life,  
-Michael Kotlarek II

**I'm going to hold you to that.**

---

Dear Rob,

I don't know why I write you letters. You don't print them anymore.

**Heh.**

Walking Dead is an interesting character study at least, but--I just wish it was in color you know?! Maybe THEN I'd know who anyone was.

**See, I hear this crap all the time. I swear it's not that hard if you just pay attention.**

I didn't even really know till this issue's letter column what Rick's last name was: Grimes. I guess it fits, don't it?

**Is that a problem? Do you have to know everyone's last name? Rick's was mentioned in issue 1, at least... I know that. I just don't think it's important for people to be running around saying their last names all the time.**

For a black and white somewhat independent comic there's not much T & A involved here, huh?

**Is that a problem?**

I honestly think this book will burn out after not too much longer.

**You opinion is duly noted. I'll do my best to prove you wrong.**

And Again I ask you, Kirk: What about God? Why don't Rick and these others pray to God and, and ask him why he let this happen? Don't you believe in God, RK?

**Hershel is the only character in the book that is devout. I believe Otis was shown praying, too. Hershel's doing to all the time, whether we show it or not. Personally, I'm an atheist... and I guess that might come through a bit in this book. I'll try to throw some God talk in there. It is an important part of American life that probably could stand to be represented a bit better... it'll just need to occur naturally, keep reading true believer!**

I think I only even learned how a Zombie is made this issue too: by biting. Still, it wasn't so bad, though. I didn't have to skim-read it or anything.

Sincerely,  
Andrew J. Shaw

**Zombies aren't made by biting. What book are you reading?**

---

Hi Robert

At the ripe old age of 24 I've been reading comics for just over half my life but have never once been compelled to actually write in and voice my opinion. Well clearly that's now changed; why? I guess I'm bored of reading foolish letters sent in by intellectual gnats with the audacity to accuse you of racism! It's completely ridiculous, the whole point of The Walking Dead is that f'd up things happen to these characters on a regular basis! It's not meant to be Sesame Street. What's more, it completely made sense that Michonne was the one to get raped. Which of the other women in that prison would have had the balls to volunteer to help find the helicopter? I can't think of any, and who else of those gals possessed the necessary strength of mind and psycho/demon streak to exact the horrible and brutal maiming the governor was deservedly subjected to? None! It had to be her! It's also obvious that was all done for a reason as she she clearly didn't kill the guy and he's no doubt gonna heading straight for the prison as we speak, pissed as is humanly possible, ready to bring down the war to end all wars on Rick and the gang and entertain the heck out of all of us for the next 4 issues. But, certain



people don't notice these things; all they notice is colour, they see something nasty happen to a non white character perpetrated by a white character and accuse you of deliberate design, what they don't realize is that by being so quick to notice the racial boundaries between the two characters in this situation they are actually inadvertently highlighting their own racial issues. You're not racist at all, in fact you couldn't be further from it. You're so distinctly un-racist that when you wrote that issue I doubt you even realized it was a black character being assaulted, to you it was just a character.

Kudos to you Mr Kirkman, I'll never be dropping your book.

P.S. I'm black.

**Thanks for writing, sir. It is true that the characters for the most part are just words on a computer screen to me until they're drawn. So really, as I type them, really... ALL the characters are black. Race honestly never comes into my plots. I also maintain that the coolest characters in the book have been minorities.**

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I'll be brief. "Walking Dead" is one of the best action/drama series I have ever read. This is coming from someone who has been reading comics for the better part of 40 years. I was wondering if you have ever approached or been approached by any of the Cable T.V. executives about turning TWD into either a live action or animated series on Cable (HBO, ect...)? I believe TWD has the type of drama you would find in a show like "Oz" or "The Sopranos". I think it has the staying power of those shows. Please look into it. Thanks much. Oh! And never stop writing TWD.

Ty Scott Evans

**I agree, the book would make an excellent television show, but there's currently no plans on the horizon, sadly. But I promise, as soon as I have news to announce... you'll hear about it.**

Mr. Kirkman

Several months ago I wrote in indicating that I was dropping the floppy issues and returning to the TPB editions. This due to the lateness of the monthly issues. By the way, thanks for printing that letter & better yet, explaining the situation.

Well, just as I was about to proceed with that plan, issue #33 came out. With all the buzz around that issue, I managed to get the last copy at my local comic store. Man, you are making it very difficult to proceed with my plan. Issues #33 and #34, were just incredible. I just had to purchase them. Now, issue #35 just came out. And yes, I picked that one up as well. Not as powerful as the two previous issues, but still worth it. I guess I'll just have to drop my plans and continue to pick up the monthly issues.

**HA! I WIN! (not that I mind you just buying the TPBs... as long as you're reading really).**

As for issue #35, just a few things I would like to point out that seemed rather odd. I found the issue very talky. There was a lot of action going on, but, somehow the visuals seemed to be lost behind the amount of word balloons. Perhaps it was just me, and the way I read it. Second, the clean up. I thought that would have been an entire issue right there. Follow the action as they attempt to secure the Prison again. I felt like the jump ahead was too big.

**In my opinion, we'd already shown the clean up the prison twice, in issue 13 and again in issue 19. So I figured it'd be better to skip it.**

Also, I believe in issue #34 you mentioned that you would be cutting back on the letter pages. I understand that. That thing must eat away at your time. Better to get those issues out on time than waste it answering letters. Issue #34 presented that short Walking Dead Christmas story which I had never read before. Issue #35 had something not related to Walking Dead to fill up the pages. Is it possible to get extra Walking Dead related material to fill up those pages. Pencilled pages, Character Index, script notes etc. I always loved the idea that the monthly issues were completely related to Walking Dead material.

Thanks, and keep up the great work.  
AA

**I like previewing other good books that I think people will enjoy. Also, doing a letters column is way faster than putting together any kind of TWD bonus material for the back. Also, there's really not a lot. I write the script and**

**Charlie draws the pages. Every now and then there's a cover sketch by either me or him... but there's not enough for even one page of sketches every issue. It's just not feasible. I am doing longer letters columns from time to time--like this issue.**

Greetings Robert,  
I'm writing in regards to the letter in issue #35 from "non racist black man" Charles L.. As a member of W.B.W.W.O.(White Boy's Who Whack Off), I must say he is 100% correct and accurate with his statement about a "great deal of white readers" whacking off to the rape of Michonne.

Lately at our W.B.W.W.O meetings(held every other Tuesdays in the local church basement) I have noticed an increase of Walking Dead #29 being used, where as previously we had used the newest issue of "Ebony Booty" or a DVD bootleg copy of Codename: The Cleaner to pleasure our whiteselves to happiness.

Let me finish by saying that even though I've been sexually active for over 15 years, your black and white comic has provided me with an experience that neither internet porn or my real life girlfriend could provide. I want to thank you for the most satisfying sex ever.

On a serious note, any chance of Tyreese getting raped? One of the members of G.W.B.W.W.O. wanted me to ask you.

Anyhow keep up the good work.  
-John B.

**I probably shouldn't have printed this... but what can I say. It made ME laugh.**

Hello Robert,

How's it going?

I've read all of your comics up to issue #35, I'd like to start by saying that they're amazing and you're kind of my hero. I love your writing, and I plan on getting into a few of your other comics. Also, you're hilarious in your response columns I absolutely love your characters and their development. and i like to go over a few of my favourites and not so favourites.

1) Rick- is a badass, i love rick and i think he's the best. I'll admit that i was a little worried, and disappointed, when he lost his hand, both times, but it would appear that you're pulling it off. i was worried that he wouldn't be the same protagonist without his hand, will he stay the same headstrong protagonist that he is?

**Only time will tell.**

2) Tyreese- Close to being as badass as Rick. If he hadn't fooled around with michonne he might even be my favourite. is there a thing with him and her, like are they together?

**Only time will tell.**

3) Lori- Bitch. I hate her, she's done nothing but bring rick down from his potential. Is there anyway you could kill her after she has that baby, but preferably not even on panel. I don't think she even deserves an acknowledgement. Like Rick should come back one day, and be like "hey where's mom?" Carl Replies "Um... I think she got eaten..." Rick then replies "well, that sucks, wanna go outside and do something more interesting than talking about her?" Carl: "sure dad"

**Only time will tell.**

4) Carl-If Rick does stop being the protagonist, it shouldn't be until carl is at least a teenager, and then you should make him a killing machine...

**Only time will tell.**

5) Martinez- If he is telling the psychos at woodbury about the prison, kill him, if not... then i like him...

**Only time will... sigh.**

Also, is there anyway we'll see some zombie dogs or other animals?

Anyway, thanks for reading, and if you don't, then thanks for writing the amazing comics.

Madok



**No zombie animals. Don't these characters have enough to deal with?**

---

Dude!

I don't have a good nickname to issue you, but if that was the zombie-you getting run over by Glenn's car in issue 35 then maybe it should be RK for roadkill. Actually on third and fourth glance that reminds me more of Tony Moore. It's only right that you should get a zombie-cameo in your own book. Maybe I should have been paying better attention all along. I'm always on the lookout for celebrity-zombies.

Anyway, I'm the guy that wrote an overly fan-boy letter about 6 months back saying how it was coincidental that whats-her-name was reading Moby Dick in the prison cuz I just happened to be reading Moby Dick... I'd just like to say that 8 months later I've finally finished that book, and it was great. Although, you could take out about half the chapters and it would still be great.

**I'll read it one of these days. I'm really not all that well-read. I'm ashamed.**

I'm writing now because I believe your book, as a work of art, should not be censored by anyone's sensibilities but those of yourself and Charlie, and that goes for your lettercol too. I enjoy the letters column because it's a true living dialogue between yourself and your audience unlike any other artistic medium. In responding to criticism of Michonne's rape (or portrayal thereof) you said "Am I just digging myself a deeper hole by printing the letters dealing with this stuff? I can't even tell any more." I hear ya, man, but standing up to the harshest criticism for a book you believe in is about the best thing you can do. We're all along for the ride.

**I hope it was at least entertaining.**

With that, I'd just like to add that your single-issue tempo as well as the tempo of the arcs has always been dead-on. Shipping tempo, too... I'll wait on quality any day. From the sound of it issue 36 might show up this week or next... cheers to that!

- Brian Hans

p.s. Cliff's back covers make a strong case for clear backing boards!

**They certainly do. Cliff is the man!!**

---

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I would like to start my letter by saying that you are a bad bad man...and you're sneaky...And you're just a mean fucker. My heart sank. I jumped up and screamed out. I shouted out curses of denial. I shook my fist at the universe and screamed my NO to an uncaring sky. It was at that moment of abject horror that I realized YOU were the source of my dismay and fear and terror...

...and for THAT I would like to thank you.

The ending to issue #34 was the best shocker I've had in awhile. I totally didn't see it coming. By now I've picked up issue #35 and I know how that turns out, but still. I hope this book lasts forever! ...or at least as long as you are willing and interested in writing it. I've been following since issue #7 and have eagerly awaited each new chapter. You've got me by the nose Mr. Kirkman, lead on!

I would also like to note that since you seem to have ignited a zombie craze in comics again (I do credit YOU with that → What books were out there before THE WALKING DEAD?!? Hunh?!? Who paved the road Beeyatches?!?) I've picked up a few of the other books that have come out along the way and have been disappointed each time...because they just don't get it.

It is obvious that the work is being done for the buck and nothing more.

Anyway...I just want to thank you for getting it.

Thank You.  
Jesse W. Campbell

**Well, I guess I can say, your welcome. But seriously, thanks for reading the book. I really do put a lot into this title and I'm glad you're digging it. It's good to hear this stuff from time to time. If you want to read good zombie books that I think are on-par with The Walking Dead, check out REMAINS, that's a good one. And I think WASTELAND is really good, I hear a lot of good**

**stuff, I just bought the TPB but haven't been able to read it yet. (I don't believe it actually has zombies in it, though).**

---

Yo, Kirkman

This is my first time ever writing into a comic book writer. Congratulations! Honestly, though, I couldn't be happier to have this be the first I write in to a book, seeing as how The Walking Dead is the best book on the shelves, bar none.

However, something in the letters section in issue #35 bothered me, and I'm sure you can guess what it is. Charles L. wrote in about the issue in which Michonne is raped by Phillip. To be honest, I don't agree with him at all, but I had no problem respecting his point of view on the situation, until he reached that utterly ridiculous line that you later addressed.

**I just want to point out that I've printed every letter this issue that pertained to the Michonne rape. I wasn't going to print any more complaints about that issue simply because I felt the issue had passed--but I didn't have to cut any out because I wasn't sent any. Every letter that mentioned it is suddenly on my side. Maybe those other folks really DID stop reading.**

Robert, I've done some crazy stuff in my time, and I love Cliff's work, but I can assure you that I have not once even contemplated "whacking off" to an issue of The Walking Dead. What Charles insinuated about an entire race of people is blatantly hypocritical. He wants us to believe that as a writer, you're racist against anyone that isn't of caucasian descent, yet essentially proclaims in the same paragraph that we whites are a bunch of degenerate, racist, sex fiends that literally get off on the sight of black people being violated in any sense of the word. Someone should explain to me how that isn't a beautiful example of the pot calling the kettle black.

Your response to Daniel's letter, in the same issue, was the exact point that needs to be remembered. A LOT of bad things happen to A LOT of people. If you readers want to play the race card, why don't you check out what's happened to caucasian people in this book? I don't see people writing in every month, freaking out about another white person being murdered, dismembered, or portrayed as a bumbling idiot. Not to mention, Michonne went absolutely medieval on Phillip, and I see no complaints about that (in fact, I applauded the entire issue, and consider it one of my favorites).

Take it all in stride, Robert. You are one of the few brilliant writers left out there, and for every oversensitive person you piss off through the story you're trying to tell, you'll capture ten new readers that are blown away by the depth of emotion and storytelling that your book presents. Thanks, and please, don't change this book for anyone.

- Matt J.

**And with that we bring another letters column to a close.**

**I'll see you back here in two weeks (for real this time) for issue 39 and then from here on out we're monthly or better.**

**PROMISE.**

**See you soon.**

**-Robert Kirkman**



# The Word

image

THE RIDE:  
DIE, VALKYRIE! #1 (of 3)  
Hot chicks, a stolen '68  
Camaro, tons of guns, a  
car chase and a mess of  
dead bodies – all drawn  
by one of the best in the  
business, BRIAN STELFREEZE,  
artist of MATADOR and  
cover artist for BATMAN:  
SHADOW OF THE BAT.  
All this and the hottest  
teen-assassin in comics as a  
cherry on top!



## SAM NOIR

Volume One



Eric A. Anderson  
Manny Trembley

**SAM NOIR, VOLUME ONE**  
Follow along with Sam Noir as  
he blazes a trail of blood and  
vengeance from the Far East  
to the deep tropics! Collected  
for the first time ever in one  
volume are "Samurai Detective"  
and "Ronin Holiday"... including  
extras that no Sam fan can  
live without – now with 20%  
more stabbing!

像再拿到手

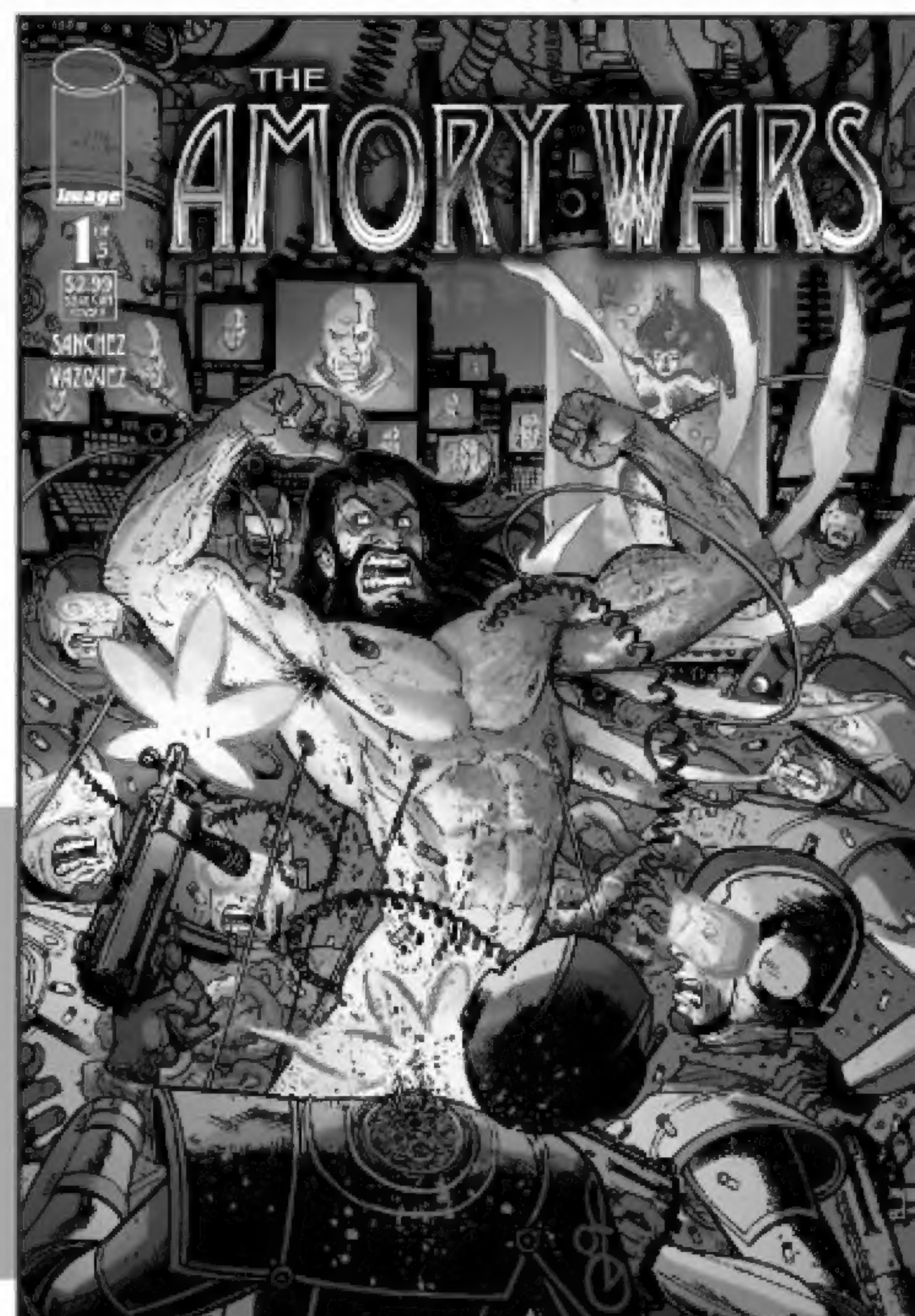


**REPO #1 (of 5)**  
From the team that  
brought you TEENAGERS  
FROM MARS, and THE  
COURIERS comes REPO,  
an all-out action comedy  
about two small-time  
repo men named KD and  
Emil. Usually their job is  
repossessing cars from  
deadbeats who owe the  
wrong kind of people  
money. Today the job is  
different – the repo of an  
escaped clone.

### THE AMORY WARS #1 (of 5)

Coheed Kilgannon's suburban world is turned upside down when he  
learns that his dreams are real and that his family plays a crucial role  
in a terrorist plot to destroy all the worlds of the Keywork. To save  
these worlds, Coheed and his wife, Cambria, must do the unthinkable...

From Claudio Sanchez, the creative mind behind the music  
sensation COHEED AND CAMBRIA, it's star-spanning science  
fiction in the tradition of Star Wars and The Matrix!



WWW

Death Dealer is a creation of Frank Frazetta. Go to [www.frankfrazetta.com](http://www.frankfrazetta.com) for more on the  
greatest fantasy painter of all time and his art, his online store and his museum.



# JUNE HITLIST

AGE OF BRONZE #26

ALIEN PIGFARM 3000  
#2 (of 4)

THE AMORY WARS  
#1 (of 5)

BOMB QUEEN III: THE  
GOOD, THE BAD, AND  
THE LOVELY #4 (of 4)

DYNAMO 5 #4

FRANK FRAZETTA'S  
DEATH DEALER  
#3 (of 6)

GODLAND #19

GUTSVILLE #2 (of 6)

INVINCIBLE #43

MADMAN ATOMIC  
COMICS #3

NOBLE CAUSES #30

PAUL JENKINS'  
SIDEKICK: SUPER  
SUMMER SIDEKICK  
SPECTACULAR  
#1 (of 2)

PVP #34

REPO #1 (of 5)

RIDE: DIE, VALKYRIE  
#1 (of 3)

SPAWN #168

SPAWN: GODSLAYER #1

STRANGE  
EMBRACE #1

STRANGE GIRL #18

SUPERPATRIOT: WAR  
ON TERROR #4 (of 4)

WALKING DEAD #38

WARD OF THE STATE  
#2 (of 3)

# GRAND LARSENENY

I gotta hand it to Jay Faerber! He's been plugging away at Image Comics for years, concocting new titles, collaborating with new artists and giving it everything he's got.

And it hasn't always been a walk in the park. Jay writes a brilliant comic book called NOBLE CAUSES but he's gone through a number of different artists in a relatively short period of time and that hasn't helped the title.

But now that Jay's paired with Yildiray Cinar, everything's turning up roses! Yildiray took over the art chores with NOBLE CAUSES #27 and the book is really hitting its stride! And let me tell you - changes are afoot that are guaranteed to knock your socks off!

NOBLE CAUSES is an ongoing title about a normal girl who marries into a family of world-famous superheroes. Jay likens it to "Spider-Man meets Desperate Housewives", only there's less web-slinging and more bed-hopping. It's got action, mystery, romance, and everything that comes along with romance - you know what I'm talking about.

And if that wasn't enough - Jay has a certifiable hit with his brand-spankin' new title, DYNAMO 5! Paired with rising star Mahmud Asrar, DYNAMO 5 is the story of the world's greatest superhero's illegitimate children, who have banded together to fight the forces of evil! (There's more to it than that, of course but I'm giving you the Reader's Digest version). The first issue sold out in record time, and a second printing was issued, and then the second issue flew off the racks as well, and a second printing followed it!

Readers love DYNAMO 5! Retailers love DYNAMO 5! Fellow creators love DYNAMO 5! And DYNAMO 5 fever has spilled into its sister publication, NOBLE CAUSES, which has caught fire as well (it doesn't hurt that the two titles are intrinsically linked... smart cookie, that Mr. Faerber).



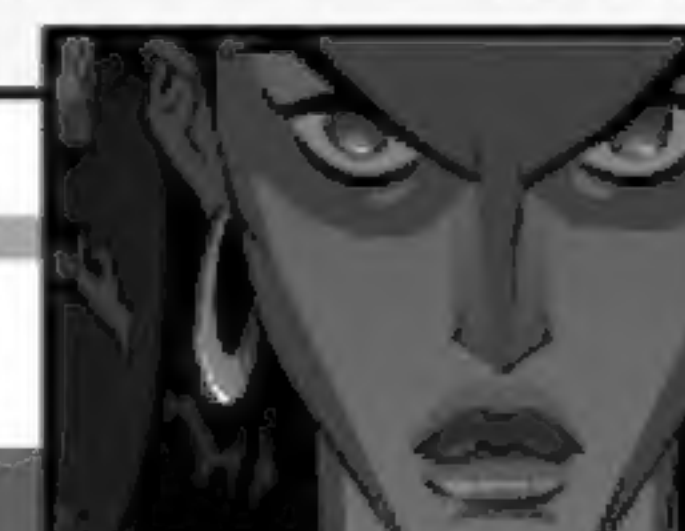
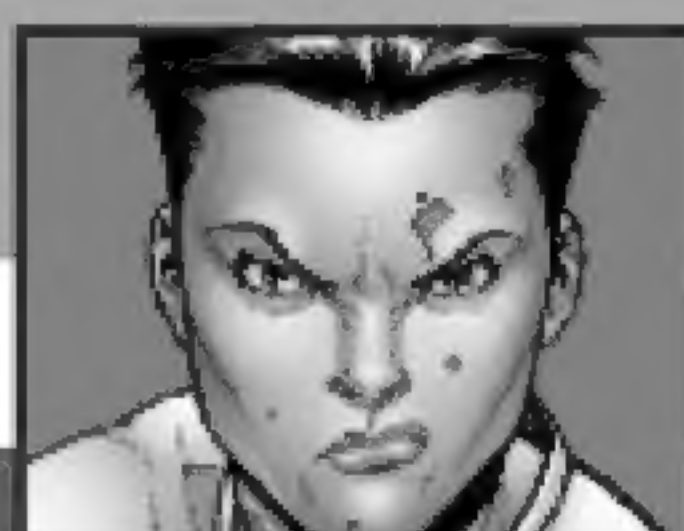
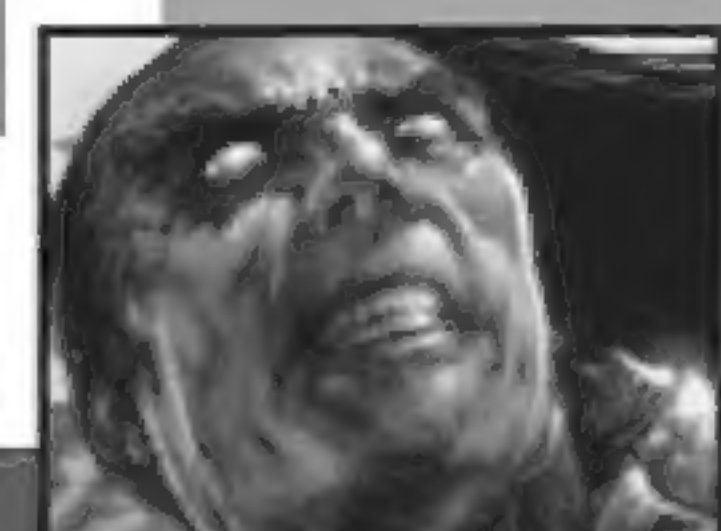
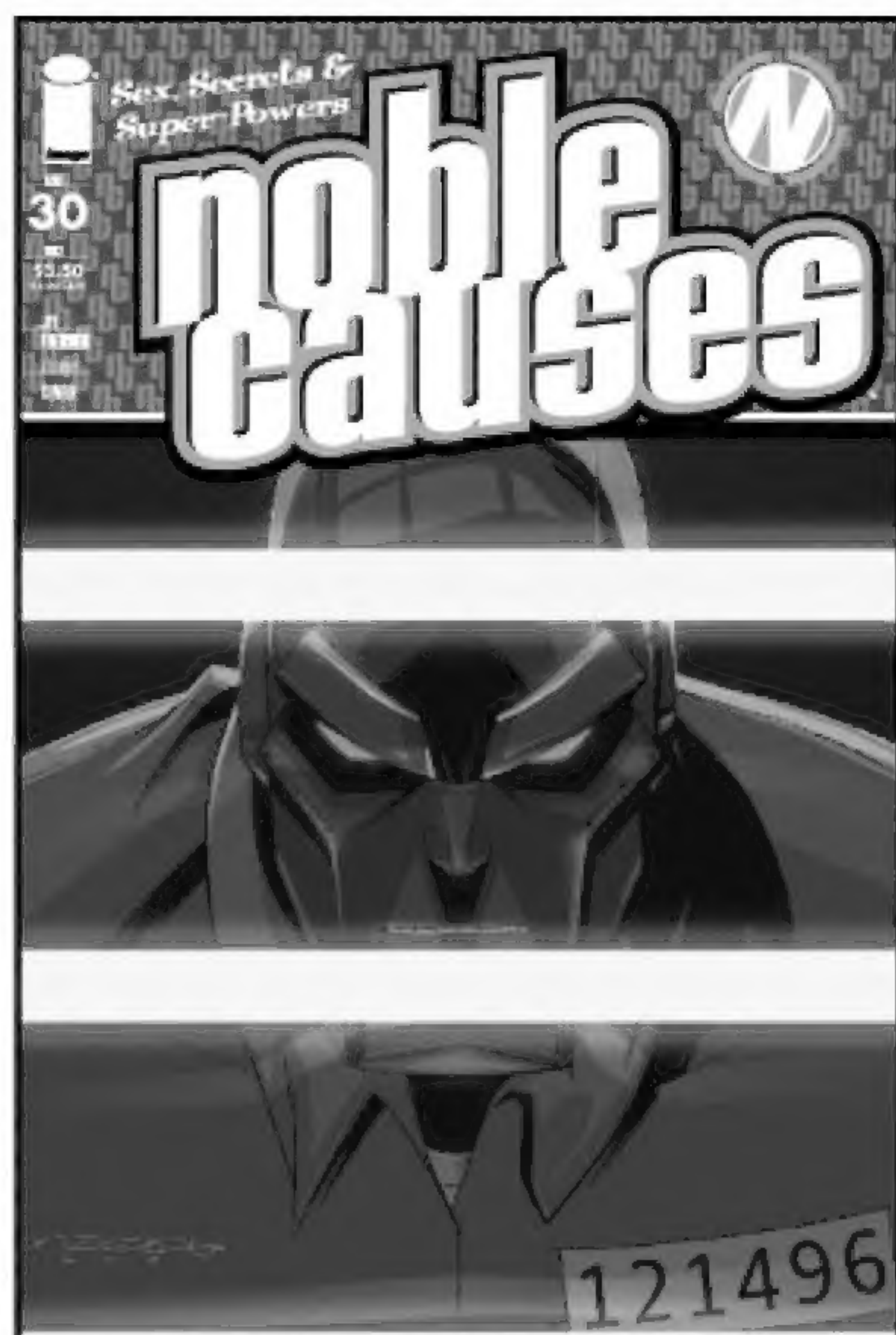
But who is Jay Faerber? Where did he come from? And where does he live so I can drop by the house unannounced and rummage through his refrigerator and fold back the covers of his comic books?

Jay Faerber was born as a small child in northeastern Pennsylvania sometime during the year 1972. Jay cut his writing teeth on comic books at Marvel and DC Comics, where he worked on such funnybooks as THE TITANS, NEW WARRIORS, GREEN LANTERN, SUPERBOY, ROBOTECH and GENERATION-X, among others. After numerous attempts to make their titles his own, Jay came to Image comics to make up his own titles (okay, okay, my chronology may be a bit off but you gotta admit - it sounded good).

Jay launched NOBLE CAUSES in 2001 to massive critical acclaim. Since then, he's diversified his resume as a creator of independent comic books by concocting a variety of titles such as DODGE'S BULLETS, FIREBIRDS, VENTURE, and the afore-mentioned DYNAMO 5.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg! Even now Jay Faerber is hard at work dreaming up new and unusual comic books just waiting to be sprung on an unsuspecting public (although I suspect that public may now suspect, after what I just mentioned). Oh, and in addition to his ongoing titles NOBLE CAUSES and DYNAMO 5, Jay is working on his first novel. The guy likes to keep busy and we're not complaining!

Jay lives in Gig Harbor, Washington - call first, if you're dropping by, and don't forget to bring cupcakes - he'll tell you where to get them if you don't already know. And if you see any copies of NOBLE CAUSES or DYNAMO 5, snap them up - quick! They're sure to be instant collector's items!



In case you haven't heard, Mike Allred's Madman is back in the new ongoing MADMAN ATOMIC COMICS series!!!



THE ASTOUNDING

# WOLF-MAN™

ROBERT KIRKMAN  
JASON HOWARD

FROM THE  
WRITER OF  
THE WALKING  
DEAD  
AND  
INVINCIBLE

ISSUE 2  
ON SALE IN JULY



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EMPIRE